

Labour attack 'distortion' in press reports

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Labour MPs have been urged to launch a new year offensive against what party strategists believe is a concerted Fleet Street campaign to torpedo their hopes of an election victory.

They have been advised to tackle political journalists responsible for reports that they believe either distort or misrepresent party policy or activities.



Mr Neil Kinnock: 'target of personal attacks'

At the same time, front-bench spokesmen have been asked to step up their drive for favourable press coverage by pumping out plenty of speeches and making themselves readily available for comment on controversial issues.

The counter-attack was urged by Mr Peter Mandelson, director of Labour's campaign and communications unit, at a private meeting at the Commons last week with senior MPs who make up the frontbench team.

Those present said that he had told them of an analysis he had conducted of newspaper coverage of the Labour Party over the past few months.

It concluded that press reports had generally been fair and reasonable up to August, but since then the party had been subjected to an unremitting campaign of vilification in all but a couple of newspapers, culminating in personal attacks on Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, over his contacts with the defence lawyer in the M15 spybook case.

The MPs were told that the wave of assaults on "loony left" councils, the tax implications of the party had faced a shrill and hysterical onslaught.

The Labour MPs said that Mr Mandelson had singled out The Sunday Times as the "hagship" of anti-Labour stories, and other papers had followed its lead.

They had been given a warning to expect more of the same in the run-up to the election as the Conservative Party's propaganda machine moved into top gear.

The communications director had said that one option was to retreat into the bunker and concentrate their efforts on using television and radio, under a statutory and professional obligation to ensure balanced political coverage, as the means of putting across the party's message.

But, according to the MPs, he had counselled against such a course. Instead, they were urged personally to single out offending journalists and, with the aid of a quiet word, to make their displeasure felt.

The Conservative Party was voicing surprise at the new Labour move last night. A spokesman said it was "an interesting if somewhat desperate new tactic."

He added: "I do not think we would want to become embroiled in this row but it does not seem to be the response of a particularly self-confident party."

"The Labour Party can concentrate on talking to itself and the press but we will concentrate on talking to the electorate about the issues. That is our job and we will do it up to the election."



Mr Mordechai Vanunu showing the message he wrote on his hand as he was taken to court in Jerusalem: "Vanunu was hijacked in Rome I.T.L. 30.9.86 2100. Came to Rome by BA fly 504."

Vanunu says hijack happened in Rome

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Mr Mordechai Vanunu has again defied attempts to silence him and told the world that he was "hijacked in Rome" to be taken to Israel to stand trial for treason and espionage.

The revelation leaves the Italian Government with the embarrassing task of asking Israel if it carried out an illegal abduction on Italian soil.

The former nuclear technician is proving to be the man Israel cannot gag. He broke the Israel Official Secrets Act to tell The Sunday Times in September that his country had stockpiled the world's sixth largest armory of nuclear warheads.

On Sunday he outsmarted his guards and found a way to tell journalists how he had been brought to Israel.

Before being taken to court for only his second appearance since being secretly smuggled back to Israel nearly three months ago, he had written a secret message on the palm of his left hand in English.

As the van bringing him from his top security prison slowed to go down the lane behind the East Jerusalem Court where he was to appear, he flattened the palm of his hand against the window.

Before his guards could pull his hand away, the message had been photographed.

"Vanunu was hijacked in Rome I.T.L. 30/9/86, 2100" it read. "Came to Rome by BA fly 504."

The hearing lasted three hours and it was agreed that Mr Vanunu would be remanded in custody throughout the legal proceedings against him. When he was brought out the border policemen guarding him were careful to hold his handcuffed wrist down so that he could not try the trick again. But a voice from the crowd of journalists called in Hebrew: "Where were you captured?"

"He had time to shout 'Rome' before the hand of one of his guards roughly silenced him.

The military censor did his best to prevent details being released. The Israeli afternoon newspaper Haaretz said: "The hearing was held at the high-security Evin prison in Tehran for more than a year.

Politicians mourn 'irreplaceable' David Penhaligon

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The Liberal Party was devastated yesterday by the death of Mr David Penhaligon, one of its few national figures, in a road accident in his native Cornwall.

Politicians in all parties were grieving the loss of one of the most popular and humorous characters in the House of Commons in a tragedy which deprives the Liberals and the Alliance of an important member of their parliamentary team, a shrewd political strategist and a highly respected constituency MP.

In a statement issued soon after news of Mr Penhaligon's death reached Westminster a profoundly distressed Mr David Steel said: "He is irreplaceable."

It was a view to be echoed throughout the day in a series of tributes from Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, other political leaders, and MPs from the West Country, all of whom regarded him as a friend.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said that Mr Penhaligon was a "decent, sweet man with a wonderful sense of humour and independence. Everybody, political friend or foe, is going to miss him."

Mr Penhaligon, aged 42, died in the accident about 6.45 am yesterday at Truck Fork on the A390 road in Cornwall.

He was driving his Rover car from Truro towards St Austell for his regular Christmas visit to the postal sorting office when it was struck almost head-on by a large van travelling in the opposite direction.

The accident closed the icy road for more than two hours. Mr Penhaligon died instantly.

Mr Penhaligon, who was married with one son and one daughter, was the Liberals' Treasury spokesman. Along with Mr Alan Beith and Mr Paddy Ashdown, he was considered to be one of the leading candidates to take over from Mr Steel when the Liberal leader eventually decided to stand down.

His death means a by-election in a seat which Mr Penhaligon has built into one of the Liberals' safest. He won the constituency from the Conservatives by 464 votes in October, 1974, and at the 1983 election increased his majority to 10,480.

Although much of Mr Penhaligon's vote was a personal one, the Liberals will be disappointed that he was not a member of the cabinet.

Reagan rules out pardons for aides

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan yesterday ruled out a presidential pardon for Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North and Admiral John Poindexter to enable them to tell the full story of the Iran-Contra scandal.

Congressional investigators are still refusing to accept Mr Reagan's call for limited immunity for the two former National Security Agency officials who presumably know the full story of the affair. Both have refused to testify under their Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination.

But many senior members of Congress of both parties are becoming increasingly convinced that the only way to uncover the full story of the scandal will eventually be to grant limited immunity.

Mr James Wright, the incoming Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives, called for a presidential pardon as "the ultimate act of leadership, the ultimate immunity." But a senior White House official rejected the idea.

Many congressmen believe a pardon now would imply that Admiral Poindexter and Colonel North were guilty of a crime. There is also a widespread feeling on Capitol Hill that with the inquiry still in its early stages it would be wrong to interfere with the possibility of prosecutions if serious crimes were uncovered.

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, did not totally rule out a future presidential pardon. "The President is not planning a pardon for them, but of course as the Chief Executive one always retains the right for executive clemency," he said.

Some senior Republicans and Democrats criticized Mr Wright's call as premature at this stage of the congressional investigation. But Senator Warren Rudman, the senior Republican on the Senate select committee investigating the scandal, said prolonged national anguish would not be justified by "the possible imprisonment for a short period of a few people for things they thought they were doing right."

President Reagan's popularity is continuing to plummet and there are increasingly persistent frank questions about his forgetfulness and whether he is really up to the rigours of the job. An opinion poll among residents of Iowa showed that one in four thought he should resign. Nearly one in five wanted him impeached. Three-quarters of those questioned believed the Administration was trying to cover up the scandal.

Mr Reagan appeared tense yesterday when he signed a National Day of Prayer Proclamation.

Continued on page 16, col 8

Advertisement for Famous Grouse Scotch Whisky featuring a bottle and a grouse.

Tomorrow Who he?



Who is this man and what is he doing? If you can answer this, and similar questions about the year gone by, you may be in line for a case of vintage M&T and Chandon champagne, worth £182, in our Prize Christmas Quiz.

There are six cases to be won in a competition guaranteed to keep the brain ticking over the holiday. Plus For sports fans, a week's holiday for two at the La Manga Club in Spain's Costa Calida is the first prize in tomorrow's special Sports Crossword.

Portfolio Gold

There is £28,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition as there was no winner yesterday.

● Portfolio list, page 21; how to play, information service, 16.

TIMES BUSINESS

Oil prices up Despite a rise in crude oil prices, motorists are likely to escape having to pay more for petrol for some weeks Page 17

TIMES SPORT

Title sacrifice Lloyd Honeyghan, Britain's world welterweight champion, has surrendered one of his three world titles rather than meet the challenge of a white South African Page 28

Piggott pays in £950,000

A solicitor acting for Lester Piggott, the former champion jockey, yesterday delivered bail security in the form of a banker's draft for £950,000 to the justices' clerk for West Suffolk.

Mr Piggott, aged 51, had appeared before Newmarket magistrates on Friday, accused of making a false statement concerning his bank account. He had faced arrest if yesterday's 5pm deadline for the security was not met.

The sum is the highest to be demanded by magistrates and is in addition to two sureties of £125,000 each, put up by Mr Henry Cecil, the trainer, and Mr Charles St George, a racehorse owner.

Mr Piggott, of Hamilton Road, Newmarket, who became a trainer after retiring from riding last year, is to appear before Newmarket magistrates on March 19.

Under the bail conditions, he has surrendered his passport, he must live at his home in Newmarket and report weekly to police.

The inquiry into Mr Piggott's affairs is believed to be part of an investigation by Inland Revenue and Customs & Excise inspectors, involving leading figures in the racing world.

The previous highest bail security demanded was £325,000, imposed in 1983 on two men accused of smuggling.

Voyager heads for home

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The two Voyager pilots, suffering from fatigue and facing headwinds for the first time, early yesterday flew their fuelled two-engine aircraft across the Caribbean and headed home on the last leg of their non-stop, round-the-world flight without refuelling.

The pilots, Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, flew through "some clouds and storms" at 00.80 GMT to cross Panama and head up the Pacific along the west coast of Mexico on the way to a landing back at Edwards Air Force Base in California this morning - a day ahead of schedule.

As Voyager turns north it will, for the first time since the trip began on December 14, face fuel-eating headwinds.

The Voyager landing originally had been expected this afternoon. Early yesterday it had logged about 22,700 miles and had about another 2,400 miles to go.

Aviation heroes, page 7

DTI inquiry nears end

The investigation into possible leaks of market-sensitive information by civil servants could end by Christmas, but the Department of Trade and Industry declines to confirm or deny reports that a young woman is the source Page 17

Iran claims British 'spy' confessed

By Nicholas Beeston

The Iranian envoy to London yesterday claimed that his country was holding two suspected British spies and that one of them had made a confession, which was filmed and would soon be shown on Iranian television.

At a press conference in the Iranian embassy in Kensington, Mr Muhammad Mahdi Akhond-Zadeh, the newly appointed chargé d'affaires, accused Mr Roger Cooper, a British businessman, of "spying activities" and claimed he had confessed.

"Cooper was a British subject spying for the interests of his country," said the envoy, who added that the 51-year-old Briton was a fluent Farsi speaker and had been a speech-writer in Iran under the late Shah.

Mr Cooper, who worked for the Financial Times and also represented the American oil company McDermott Inter-

Meningitis blamed for double death

By Jill Sherman

Two young children from Northamptonshire have died simultaneously from a rare complication of meningitis. Nicola, aged 23 months, and James Smith, aged two, were found dead in their beds by their mother, Mrs Sue Smith, on Sunday morning in their home in Wellingborough.

The complication, known as Waterhouse-Friderichsen, although rare, is often the contributory cause of death in meningitis cases, said Dr James Stuart, specialist in community medicine, who is mummifying the meningitis screening programme in Stonehouse Gloucestershire. "The complication is caused by blood poisoning which overwhelms the body and causes a failure of the adrenal glands. It causes shock and the circulation stops," said Dr Stuart.

Dr Stuart said that some of the deaths in the Gloucestershire area had been caused by the same syndrome. Dr Rogers said that the two other older daughters, Jackie aged 5 and Toni 4, were admitted for observation to Kettering General Hospital on Sunday but they were both discharged early yesterday afternoon.

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Appis, Arts, Births, deaths, marriages, Business, Court, Crosswords, Diary, Features, Law Report, Leaders, Letters, Obituary, Science, Sport, Theatres, TV & Radio, Universities, Weather, Wills

Advertisement for 'Now read my MEMOIRS in the HORSE and HOUND' featuring a horse and a dog.

The Queen to end side-saddle parade

By Robin Young

The Queen is to give up riding side-saddle at the Trooping of the Colour in June. Instead of her annual display of dignified equestrian expertise, she will drive to and from Horse Guards as a passenger in a carriage, and will inspect her annual birthday parade from the comfort of the coach.

The Queen's decision has, according to Buckingham Palace, nothing to do with either security or the state of the monarch's health. It is all because of the age of her horse.

NEWS SUMMARY

Man accused of Salisbury death

Detectives investigating the brutal killings of two women in Salisbury charged a man with the murder of one of them last night.

Mr Alexander MacInnes, a public lavatory cleaner employed by Salisbury District Council, was accused of murdering Mrs Beryl Deacon, aged 44, from Ringwood, Hampshire, whose body was discovered in lavatories in Salisbury early on Sunday.

Mr MacInnes, aged 27, of Westwood Rd, Salisbury, appeared before a special sitting of Salisbury magistrates. He made no application for bail and was remanded in custody until tomorrow.

Detectives are still inquiring into the murder of another Salisbury woman, Miss Ruth Perrett, aged 25, a psychiatric patient, who was found strangled on Saturday two miles from where Mrs Deacon's body was discovered.

Maxwell TV foray

Representatives of Mr Robert Maxwell are negotiating in Paris to take an ownership stake in the main French television network, which is to be privatized in the new year, in a flotation expected to raise \$400 million.

Mr Maxwell is seeking up to 10 per cent of the equity in the channel - TF1. He and his representatives are said to have had talks with several large French companies, including Havas, the advertising agency, in an effort to form a consortium.

Bus row settled

All 74 bus drivers of Mierthyr Tydfil Transport, Mid Glamorgan, who were dismissed on Saturday and told to pay back three days' wages that had already been advanced, were yesterday reinstated.

The men lost their jobs after an unofficial strike in support of a colleague who was dismissed for allegedly issuing a wrong ticket.

After negotiations with the drivers and union representatives, the company said last night that the drivers were back on duty.

Pit overtime threat

The Yorkshire coalfield could be hit by the biggest dispute since the miners' strike.

Members of the pit deputies' union Nacods at Goldthorpe colliery, near Doncaster, who are on strike, are calling on the 4,000 deputies in Yorkshire to impose an overtime ban after management provided safety cover, a job which they normally do, last weekend.

Today delegates will meet in Barnsley at a Nacods area council meeting to decide whether to impose the overtime ban. Goldthorpe's 60 deputies have not worked since December 14 and 550 members of the National Union of Mineworkers were sent home without pay.

British Coal said at the weekend that 36 NUM men with branch agreement carried out essential safety work.

Prince is on move

The schooldays of Prince William (right) start a new phase in January when he moves to another pre-prep school.

Buckingham Palace is not disclosing its name, but an announcement will be made shortly before he is due to begin - possibly in mid-January.

Tea days ago Prince William, aged four, left his nursery school at Notting Hill - after playing the part of an innkeeper in the school's nativity play.

He spent four terms at the school, which is run by Mrs Jane Myrns.



Judges meet target

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, has met his promised target of a 10 per cent increase in the circuit bench (Our Home Affairs Correspondent writes).

His department announced yesterday that 50 new circuit judges had been appointed in England and Wales in 1986. That is more than in any year since 1972, and brings the total of circuit judges in post at the end of the year to 391, the highest ever. Three of the judges are women - two barristers and one solicitor.

£10m train ferry berth for Dover

By Rodney Cowton Transport Correspondent

Dover Harbour Board is to invest £10 million in a new freight-train ferry berth.

A ferry now under construction will operate from the berth and will have four times the cargo-carrying capacity of existing rail freight ferries.

The board said yesterday it was confident that the ship and the berth would be able to meet the challenge of the Channel tunnel, which is due to come into operation in 1993. The new berth will become the only one for cross-channel rail freight.

Mr John Potter, deputy managing director of the board, said that the berth was due to be completed in January 1988. The French nationalized railways operator, SNCF, had signed a 10-year contract to use the berth, which would ensure that a very high proportion of the project's capital cost would be recovered in that period.

The new ferry is being built in France for SNCF, but British Rail will make extensive use of it. It will carry rail wagons on its lower deck and trucks on its upper deck.

Apart from having much greater cargo-carrying capacity, the new ship will be faster, and its turn-round time at Dover is expected to be at least one hour quicker than existing rail ferries. It is scheduled to make four round trips a day between Dover and Dunkirk.

With the closure next month of the British Rail service from Harwich to Zeebrugge in Belgium, it is expected that rail freight traffic through Dover will rise to one million tonnes next year, using existing facilities. Mr Potter said it was quite possible that it would double.

Both British Rail and SNCF are planning to operate intensive rail services through the Channel tunnel from 1993.

Settle line 'loses £1m each year'

British Rail yesterday released an outline of its financial case for closing the route between Carlisle and Settle, regarded as possibly the most beautiful railway line in England.

British Rail said that between £2.7 million and £4.3 million was needed urgently for the Ribbleshead viaduct. In addition there were 20 other viaducts, 14 tunnels and 325 bridges. Total civil engineering costs on the line, excluding day-to-day maintenance, would average £950,000 a year.

On-going costs would total £1.96 million a year, made up of infrastructure, £950,000, train operating costs, £800,000, and interest and depreciation on rolling stock, £210,000. Current revenue was £1 million a year, leaving a loss of nearly £1 million.

A rail route is proposed from Leeds to Carlisle via Giggleswick and Caraforth, and a bus route, sponsored by British Rail, between Appleby and Penrith.

The illicit trade in cattle along the 300-mile Irish border is showing no sign of decline in spite of the creation of special customs task forces to deal with the scandal.

The large profits to be made by smuggling syndicates and the nature of a border cutting through farms and even through homes is making the task of customs officials almost impossible.

Farming organizations believe that only when the 26 per cent disparity between the green pound of the UK and the punt of the Irish Republic is closed will the cattle smuggling decline, leaving the field clear for more traditional items such as liquor.

The European Community's green currency is the mechanism used to avoid one nation enjoying a trading advantage over fellow member states because of a fall in the value of its currency.

The disparity between the UK and Irish Republic developed in the summer when the Dublin government devalued its currency by 6 per cent followed by a similar cut in the green punt.

But there has been no similar reduction in the UK's

Young orders review after Rhine pollution

By Sheila Gunn Political Staff

Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Employment, has ordered a review of emergency plans to deal with the escape of hazardous waste, as a result of the Rhine disaster.

The aim is to see if any lessons can be learnt from the pollution catastrophe which began with the discharge of agricultural pesticides into the river in Switzerland and killed off all aquatic life in the Rhine

through West Germany and the Netherlands to the North Sea.

The review will include investigating the requirements for firms to keep local councils up to date on sites which could pose a major hazard.

Environment ministers quickly claimed last month that tighter safety rules in Britain would prevent a disaster similar to that at the Sandoz warehouse in Basle, Switzerland, where 30 tons of pesticides and a mercury compound were washed into the Rhine by firemen fighting a blaze.

But there is now considerable confusion on whether such a disaster would be caught by the present safety measures in Britain. This is made worse because responsibility for dealing with pollution is shared between the Departments of Environment and Employment.

Lord Young, who has responsibility for the Health and Safety Executive, de-

scribed in a written reply to Lord Kennet, the Social Democratic peer, the present arrangements for monitoring sites with the greatest major accident hazard. This enables councils to draw up off-site emergency plans to deal with any leakage.

"These arrangements will be reviewed in the light of the accident at Basle," he said.

The Department of Environment said it knew nothing about the review and empha-

sized that, since Britain had adopted the EEC's "Seveso directive", strict safety measures were already in force.

But the Health and Safety Executive said it did not yet know whether a Basle-type incident would be covered by the present law.

Under the Control of Industrial Major Accident Hazards regulations (Cimah) 1982, owners of about 200 plants, designated as having the greatest major accident hazard

potential, have to notify local authorities of the chemicals on site.

"We do not know yet if the warehouse at Basle would have been classified in Britain as a notifiable site. We are waiting for information from the firm in Basle about exactly what was stored there."

"We believe about 32 different chemicals were involved and some were even banned pesticides - stored and awaiting disposal."

Rise in bomb attacks put down to new split in IRA

By Richard Ford

The recent upsurge in terrorism in Northern Ireland has been blamed on the split within the Provisional IRA over its policy of not participating in the Dail, the Dublin parliament.

Senior RUC officers believe that defections from the Provisional movement have forced the military men to launch a bombing onslaught as a means of reassuring their supporters that the terrorist campaign is not being downgraded.

In the wake of carefully planned Provisional IRA bomb attacks on hotels and bars at the weekend, the RUC yesterday renewed its warning to the province that terrorists were intent on continuing their campaign over Christmas and into the new year.

A statement issued from RUC headquarters said: "The main reason for these attacks is the need within the Provisional IRA leadership to counter increasing defections to the rival Republican Sinn Fein."

"The public are again urged to exercise maximum vigilance not only in the days coming up to Christmas, but also in the new year period."

Security forces in the North expected an increase in Provisional IRA violence after its political wing, Provisional Sinn Fein, decided at its annual conference to abandon "abstentionism" and allow elected representatives to take their seats in the Irish Republic's parliament.

The decision led to a walk-out by Ruairi O Bradhig, a

former party president, who founded Republican Sinn Fein, which in recent weeks has been setting up its organization in the North.

It was expected that the Provisional IRA leaders, who publicly backed the decision to drop abstentionism, would attempt to increase their terrorist offensive to reassure traditionalists and sceptics of the new policy that the bomb and bullet would remain a main part in their campaign.

Meanwhile the RUC and the police federation have publicly criticized Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich's remark that until the allegations that the force operated a shoot-to-kill policy were cleared up, nationalists would be reluctant to join the force.

The RUC described the cardinal's comments as "hurtful, unconstructive and unhelpful", particularly as the force was offering every encouragement to recruit more Roman Catholics so the RUC would be more representative.

The composition of the force is approximately 90 per cent Protestant and 10 per cent Roman Catholic with senior officers privately admitting that they face difficulties in recruiting nationalists, who in many cases have to completely dissociate themselves from their community on joining the force.

But in their statement the RUC said that as professional police officers they resented Cardinal Ó Fiaich's comments and had no need to assert their impartiality as the record was there for everyone who chose to see it.

Shooting blamed on feud

A feud within the outlawed Irish National Liberation Army is being blamed for the killing of a self-employed plumber in West Belfast.

Thomas McCartney, aged 31, a father of five, was shot in the head by two gunmen who ambushed him at the gate of his home in Ardsonstown at midnight on Sunday.

He was approaching his home having driven friends home when the gunmen fired shots into his head at point-blank range before escaping in a hijacked van. The vehicle was later found abandoned a few hundred yards away and police do not suspect that the killing was sectarian.

It is the second murder to hit the family. Nine years ago, Mr Jack McCartney, the dead man's father, who was the manager of a local social club, was shot dead.

Yesterday the Provisional IRA denied any involvement in the killing of Mr McCartney and detectives are working on the theory that he was shot dead because of a row within the ranks of the paramilitary organization.

Dr Joe Hendron, a Social Democratic and Labour Party councillor, said the shooting demonstrated the nature of the "paramilitary scourge" faced by West Belfast. "During the past week they have shot innocent people, blown them up by mistake and damaged their homes and places of work."

Pay bonus for stress criticized

The BBC in Northern Ireland was criticized by the Confederation of British Industry in the province yesterday for paying a £300 bonus to staff because of the stress they had endured this year.

The corporation refused to comment on the payment of the bonus to each of its 700 workers, amidst private criticism from businessmen and anger from Unionist and nationalist politicians.

The CBI criticized the payment of such bonuses, saying it implied that everyone employed by the Corporation was operating in what could be regarded as a war zone.

Major companies employing people from the province and elsewhere denied that their staff received additional payment for working in the north. Spokesmen for Marks & Spencer, British Midland airline and British Airways said that no bonuses or "danger" money were paid.

Civil Servants at the Northern Ireland Office receive no extra allowance, though soldiers get a Northern Ireland allowance of £2.45 a day to compensate for the high cost of living, unsocial hours and working conditions.

Some businessmen said that the payment of bonuses set a damaging precedent and that those who had paid them in the early years had found it difficult to stop the practice once the scale of the troubles declined.

Cattle smugglers defraud EEC subsidy scheme

By a Staff Reporter

Cross-border cattle smuggling is defrauding the EEC of hundreds of thousands of pounds and threatening ruin to slaughter houses in Northern Ireland.

The illicit trade in cattle along the 300-mile Irish border is showing no sign of decline in spite of the creation of special customs task forces to deal with the scandal.

The large profits to be made by smuggling syndicates and the nature of a border cutting through farms and even through homes is making the task of customs officials almost impossible.

Farming organizations believe that only when the 26 per

cent disparity between the green pound of the UK and the punt of the Irish Republic is closed will the cattle smuggling decline, leaving the field clear for more traditional items such as liquor.

The European Community's green currency is the mechanism used to avoid one nation enjoying a trading advantage over fellow member states because of a fall in the value of its currency.

The disparity between the UK and Irish Republic developed in the summer when the Dublin government devalued its currency by 6 per cent followed by a similar cut in the green punt.

But there has been no similar reduction in the UK's

green pound and so to ensure that Irish farmers receive the EEC common price on their exports to Britain they claim an export subsidy of between £120 to £140 per cow or carcass sent to the UK.

To prevent farm produce being exported from the UK into other member states where higher prices operate, the EEC imposes a levy per head of cattle. It is this subsidy system which the cattle smugglers in the north have been exploiting for three months.

One person involved in the meat trade said: "The cattle go down on the hoof, are killed in the republic and then exported to Britain with a subsidy of up to £150 per animal."

In a small number of cases cattle are moved into the south then legally re-exported back across the border a few days later with farmers claiming the subsidy.

Last month an estimated 40,000 cattle were illegally taken across the border with smugglers driving them in trucks with false number plates across unapproved roads or dropping them in fields at night where they are fed a few hundred yards into the south.

With many farms straddling the border it is an almost impossible task for customs officials, whose job has been made more difficult by reports that false animal ear tags have been manufactured so that

animals brought illegally from the north appear to be legitimate cattle from the Irish Republic.

Slaughter houses in Northern Ireland have been affected by the smuggling, with plants suffering a 20 per cent decline in the months until November and there is concern that things may get worse if the smuggling continues at its present rate.

Although extra customs officers have been sent to border areas, farming organizations fear their impact has been minimal.

One man said: "The only way we will get a satisfactory solution of this problem is to have a meaningful devaluation of the green pound."

MPs grieve for David Penhaligon



The wreckage of David Penhaligon's smashed Rover is taken away from the crash site.

Continued from page 1

expect to hold the seat with a good majority.

Last night some Liberals were privately hoping that Mr John Pardoe, the former MP for North Cornwall and still a leading figure in the party, would be tempted to make a comeback to the Commons which he left in 1979.

Mr Pardoe, who was defeated by Mr Steel in the contest for the leadership after the resignation of Mr Jeremy Thorpe, has already taken on the post of chairman of the Alliance's general election

planning group and has private business commitments. His return to Westminster would be welcomed by his Liberal colleagues, not least Mr Steel.

Mr Penhaligon was one of Britain's most widely-liked MPs, regularly appearing on radio and television. He was often on BBC television's Question Time programme, and was one of three politicians who stood in for Jimmy Young on his morning radio programme when the broadcaster went on holiday last month.

His ready wit and familiar

Cornish accent were obvious attractions to producers. Mr Penhaligon often joked to his colleagues that he was a "professional Cornishman", and that he was regularly invited to appear on the media not in his role as a Liberal spokesman but because he was Cornish.

His loss is a shattering blow to the Liberals, and to Mr Steel who was always grateful for his private advice.

The Liberal leader was in his constituency yesterday when Mr David Alton, the party's chief whip, telephoned him to tell him of the tragedy.

Mr Steel immediately rang Mr Penhaligon's wife Annette to express his sympathy.

The Prime Minister was said to be deeply shocked, and was writing a letter of sympathy to Mr Penhaligon's family.

Dr Owen said: "In the political life of the West Country David Penhaligon will be irreplaceable. He was a colourful, charismatic and courageous Cornishman."

West Country Conservative MPs were warm in their tributes. Mr David Harris (St Ives) said he and other Cornish MPs were shattered.

Tate seeks £2.9m Constable

By John Young

The Tate Gallery is to launch an appeal to buy Constable's "The Opening of Waterloo Bridge" and the National Heritage Memorial Fund is making a £1 million grant towards the purchase.

The Tate appeal begins on January 27 for the balance of the £2.9 million needed to acquire the painting from its owner, Mrs A. J. Sheldon, daughter of the late Mr Harry Ferguson, one of the founders of the Massey-Ferguson tractor empire.

National Heritage's grant is the largest yet made by the fund for a single work of art and reflects the importance attached to what is generally regarded as one of the

painter's greatest masterpieces.

A leading art expert said last night that, because of the painting's historic as well as artistic significance, it was inconceivable that it should be allowed to leave the country.

The gallery's trustees have already committed £500,000 from their annual allocation towards its purchase. A further £250,000 has been promised by the National Art Collections Fund, its largest ever disbursement, and £100,000 by the Friends of the Tate Gallery.

The painting, first publicly exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1832, depicts the opening of the bridge by the Prince Regent, subsequently

King George IV, in 1817. It measures 86½ins by 53ins and is described as one of the three great Constables still in private hands.

A spokesman for the Tate said that the trustees regarded its acquisition as essential to its collection which, although rich in Constables, contained only one other canvas measuring more than 6ft across. "The Marine Parade and Old Chain Pier, Brighton", which was purchased for the nation for £15,000 in 1950, Constable saw it as one of his most important achievements.

The asking price for "The Opening of Waterloo Bridge" is £4 million, but its price will be reduced to £2.9 million by tax concessions.

Date of Thatcher visit to Moscow is agreed

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister is to visit Moscow shortly before Easter. Downing Street confirmed last night.

The trip, which Conservative strategists are expecting to give an important boost to Mrs Thatcher in election year, will last three days.

The dates were agreed in principle at a Downing Street meeting yesterday between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the Soviet ambassador, who took with him a message from Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader.

It was the latest in the increasing stream of contacts between the British and Soviet governments.

Last week the British Ambassador in Moscow, Sir Bryan Cartledge, had a meeting with Mr Gorbachev, the first formal talks between a Kremlin leader and a British

ambassador for 23 years. Given the present difficulties of the United States' presidency, British ministers are hoping and expecting that Britain's role in East-West talks in the wake of the Reykjavik summit will be of increasing importance.

Mrs Thatcher has made clear that she intends to raise with Mr Gorbachev a 50 per cent cut in strategic nuclear weapons by the United States and Soviet Union, the elimination of longer range intermediate nuclear weapons in Europe and a ban on chemical weapons.

Tory strategists believe that the visit will have electoral advantages, underlining Mrs Thatcher's status as a world leader.

Mr Gorbachev has made plain that he regards the trip as being of great importance.

US firm plans new HQ on Telegraph site

By Judith Huntley Commercial Property Correspondent

Goldman Sachs, the US investment house, has bought the Fleet Street printing works of The Daily Telegraph to redevelop the site as its London headquarters.

Goldman Sachs has bought Rothersey Developments, a small property development company which bought the freehold site from the newspaper in 1984. Neither side will reveal how much has been paid but prices are rising rapidly in the Fleet Street area as the newspaper industry moves away.

Rothersey planned to build a tower block on the 1.15 acre site with more than 200,000 sq ft of offices and it is believed that Goldman Sachs will build at least that amount for its own occupation. The scheme could cost about £100 million.

The Daily Telegraph has built a £75 million printing plant in London's Docklands and its journalists are due to move to a building near by on the Isle of Dogs next year. Its sale to Rothersey involved a complicated agreement over initial payments and a share of development profits, but the exact financial details were not disclosed.

Goldman Sachs has been searching for a large amount of space in the City's square mile for some time but has been unable to find new offices. The move to Fleet Street reflects the dire shortage of top quality offices in the City, where rents are soaring on the back of strong demand and scarcity of supply in the wake of the Big Bang, the deregulation of the financial markets.

Bid to let TV into committee

By Martin Fletcher Political Reporter

MPs are to make fresh moves to have the proceedings of Commons select committees televised when they return from the Christmas break, and this time they believe they stand a good chance of success.

One significant new factor which could work in their favour has been the positive impact on public opinion of watching newscasts of President Reagan's aides being grilled on the Iran arms affair by the House of Representatives foreign affairs committee.

Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Grimsby, tabled an Early Day Motion last June which was signed by 162 MPs from all parties who were in favour of televising select committees.

Mr Mitchell is now planning to table another EDM for which he believes he can secure well over 200 signatures.

He also hopes to introduce a ten-minute rule bill. If that, too, is well-supported, Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, will be under strong pressure to find time for a half-day debate at the end of which MPs would have a free vote.

The last similar debate was in November 1985, when MPs rejected by just 12 votes a move to allow the Commons itself to be televised for an experimental period. The surprise defeat was attributed to the last minute change of heart of Mrs Thatcher, who had earlier come round to the idea.

To allow cameras into the committee rooms, however, would be seen as a significant step towards allowing them into the actual chamber.

Sir Edward du Cann, former chairman of the Conservative backbench 1922 committee and a sponsor of the first EDM, said last night that there was now no doubt that television would be introduced in some form in the Commons. He believed this fresh attempt to televise select committees could succeed because televising the Lords had proved successful; because it represented a conciliatory compromise following the exclusion of cameras from the chamber; and because there was an increasing realization that chat shows and television interviews were taking over from Parliament as the political forum of the nation.

By the way, the Times overseas editions are published in the following countries: Australia, £5.00; Canada, £5.00; Cyprus, £5.00; France, £5.00; Germany, £5.00; Greece, £5.00; Hong Kong, £5.00; India, £5.00; Italy, £5.00; Japan, £5.00; Korea, £5.00; Malaysia, £5.00; New Zealand, £5.00; Norway, £5.00; Singapore, £5.00; South Africa, £5.00; Sweden, £5.00; Switzerland, £5.00; Taiwan, £5.00; Thailand, £5.00; USA, £5.00; Yugoslavia, £5.00.

Conman who duped secretary with job offer sent to prison

A confidence trickster who duped Miss Sarah Lambert, a London secretary, into parting with more than £1,000, was jailed for three years yesterday.

Joseph Hanson had pleaded guilty to "deliberate, cold-blooded, carefully planned and calculated fraud", Judge Norwood, passing sentence, said at Isleworth Crown Court, west London.

She ordered that the sentence run consecutively to one that Hanson is presently serving, which ends in February 1988.

The disappearance of the Miss Lambert, aged 26, for four days in mid-August started a nationwide hunt.

Hanson, aged 41, a former driving instructor, of Garratt Lane, Earlsfield, south London, admitted six charges of deception, three involving Miss Lambert, one each involving a car hire company, a hotel, and a bed-and-breakfast establishment.

The judge told him: "You are preying on the more defenceless members of our society. You did it at a time when you were meant to be going back to prison, from which you had quite inexplicably been released for the weekend."

The court was told that Hanson overstayed his weekend leave from prison, posed as a prosperous businessman and met Miss Lambert through an employment agency. He offered her a salary

of £12,500, clothing allowance and car.

She paid out various sums, believing she would be reimbursed, and her total loss was a little more than £1,000, Mr Jeremy Carter-Manning, for the prosecution, said.

Hanson promised her an increase in salary to £21,000 and that she would meet famous people. A trip to the United States was also mentioned.

Eventually, Hanson abandoned her at Basingstoke railway station where, after several hours waiting for him to return, she rang a friend and was found by the police.

Hanson was arrested a day later by a private detective, who identified him in Reading, Berkshire, after seeing his photograph on television.

Mr Carter-Manning said that there had been a romantic side to the relationship.

The judge told Hanson: "I have no doubt at all that you will do this again, you've been doing it for years, and you always pick up some young girl among others you defraud."

Miss Lambert's disappearance between Friday, August 15, and Monday, August 18, was linked at first with the presumed abduction of Miss Susannah Lamplugh, an estate agent who had vanished after going to show a man called "Mr Kipper" a house in Fulham. Police later discounted any link.



Miss Sarah Lambert, victim of a 'cold-blooded' fraud

"Clearly these two people got on well, were very attracted to each other and certainly Hanson, in his interview with police, indicated that there may have been an element of that in both directions."

"But what he makes quite clear is that the fault for what occurred arose entirely from his deceptions and his promises to her rather than from anything else."

The court was told that Hanson had committed similar tricks before. He even had a name for them - "meal ticket offences".

Mr Mark Batchelor, for the defence, said that Hanson was a conman who used his knowledge of human weakness to get meals, comfortable hotels and female company.

He had once said that if Bo Derek came for an interview and did not have an Access card it would be no good. He was a "macho man", Mr Batchelor said.

The judge told Hanson: "I have no doubt at all that you will do this again, you've been doing it for years, and you always pick up some young girl among others you defraud."

Miss Lambert's disappearance between Friday, August 15, and Monday, August 18, was linked at first with the presumed abduction of Miss Susannah Lamplugh, an estate agent who had vanished after going to show a man called "Mr Kipper" a house in Fulham. Police later discounted any link.



Irina Ratushinskaya, the poet, and Igor Gerashchenko, her husband, meeting Mrs Thatcher at Downing Street yesterday.

Freed poet will stay in West

By Mary Dejevsky

Irina Ratushinskaya, the dissident Russian poet, who is in London after leaving the Soviet Union last week, says that she and her husband plan to remain in the West, at least for the time being.

Miss Ratushinskaya, aged 32, said at a press conference yesterday that she had never felt so free in her life. She thanked all those in Britain who had campaigned on her behalf, and also read out an open letter to Mr Gorbachev, thanking him for the release of Andrei Sakharov. In it she expressed the hope that this would be a first step to the release of all political prisoners.

After the conference she visited Mrs Thatcher at Downing Street.

Miss Ratushinskaya was released from prison camp in October after serving four years of a seven-year sentence for writing poems the authorities considered anti-Soviet.

She said she spent about one day in every three in either the camp prison or a punishment cell. The policy seemed to be not just to isolate political detainees from society, but to make them renounce their views, she said.

She described her worst moments as when camp officials told her that her husband, Igor Gerashchenko, could be executed for his dissident activities. When she was arrested, she said, she and her husband had both pledged not to testify against each other.

David Astor, speaking for the Irina Trust, one of the organizations which campaigned in Britain for her release, said Miss Ratushinskaya had now had a full medical check-up. She was very emaciated, but otherwise had no outstanding medical problems. In prison she had suffered from high blood pressure, blackouts and kidney pains.

Miss Ratushinskaya said that in the four years she spent in the camp, physical torture was not necessary. "They refined it down to extreme cold, extreme filth and extreme hunger."

"Frequently the measures applied to us were senseless and could only be described as humiliations," she said. "The women were forced to wear identity tags."

"We refused, and we were punished, not once but a lot."

She was once knocked unconscious when she went on hunger strike over the treatment of a sick fellow prisoner.

She spoke of her struggle for human rights. "When I was five years old, I told grown-ups that when I was grown up myself I would move to Africa to see monkeys and crocodiles."

"They said I would not be allowed. When I asked: 'Who would not allow me - the crocodiles?' they said: 'No, our authority.'"

"From that time, I have preferred to deal with crocodiles."

Suspicion over cash appeal

By David Sapsted

An unregistered charity being investigated for fraud has made a Christmas appeal to thousands of hospital staff to raise money for holidays for deprived children, it was disclosed yesterday.

The organization Holidep (Holidays for Deprived Children) is run by a self-employed businessman from a dilapidated terraced house near Crystal Palace, south London. It has asked hospitals throughout Britain to send donations in "the largest bank notes possible."

Mr Dennis Peach, Chief Charity Commissioner, said yesterday that he viewed the methods employed by Holidep with "great suspicion". The main charity supposedly benefiting from the money raised has dissociated itself from the appeal.

Mr Peach said yesterday that because Holidep was not registered as a charity, there was nothing the Charity Commission could do. "However, if such organizations demand money in bank notes,

the first thing I would recommend would be to contact the police."

Scotland Yard confirmed yesterday that a man aged 44 from Holidep had been arrested last month after allegations of fraud, but had been released pending further inquiries. Two other people whose names appear on the Holidep appeal are being sought.

Holidep has asked hospitals to charge entrance fees at Christmas parties and send the money to the group's headquarters.

Dr Barnardo's, whose children Holidep claimed would be among those to benefit, has failed to obtain a list of hospitals approached by the group. The children's home has now sent a letter to all hospitals dissociating itself from the appeal.

Dr Bill Beaver, Dr Barnardo's publicity director, said yesterday that the appeal was grossly misleading because it portrayed Barnardo children as sometimes "being incar-

cerated for years within four walls of their institutional home". He said that such practices were jeopardizing the public's goodwill towards charitable giving.

The problem for both the Charity Commission and the police is that any charity, registered or not, does not have to give a set amount to the charitable causes it professes to support.

Mr Ivan James Saxton, the Secretary of Holidep, who describes himself as a businessman, said that he hoped to raise hundreds of thousands of pounds to establish his group's own holiday camp.

Failing that, he said, smaller amounts would be given to recognized charities to provide holidays for children.

Last Friday, Mr Saxton formally applied for charitable status, but the case has yet to be considered. Holidep remains under no legal obligation to specify how the money raised will be spent nor the amount to be retained.

Boy George drugs dossier

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The father of Boy George, the pop singer, yesterday said he had received telephone threats when it became known that he was prepared to give information to police on the dealers supplying drugs to people in the pop music world.

Mr Gerald O'Dowd, aged 56, from south London, said he had prepared a secret dossier which he had lodged with a solicitor. Mr O'Dowd said he was prepared to name dealers not only because of what they had done to his son but also "for all the young children in the playgrounds who can get drugs as easily as sweets".

Scotland Yard said yesterday that police were always ready to investigate any information passed to them by the public.

Over the weekend, Boy George, aged 25, was arrested and searched for drugs. He was released on police bail pending the analysis of substances afterwards.

Shortly afterwards, Mr Mark Golding, aged 20, one of the men arrested with the pop singer, was taken from a house in Notting Hill, west London, and taken to hospital in Paddington, where he died from a suspected overdose of methadone, a synthetic narcotic used in treating heroin addicts.

Scotland Yard said that a post mortem examination of the dead man had yet to be arranged but the inquest will be opened on January 31.

After the death, Mr O'Dowd disclosed the existence of his dossier. He said: "You have seen the pictures of my son in

the newspapers. When I look and see what drugs have done to my son, this is the message I want to get across to the young people of this country."

"I have a son who is unfortunately a very famous person. I have got to think of all the other children and young people, and older people, who are on their way to their deaths by the abuse of drugs."

He accused drug dealers of manipulating people and being ready to tempt children. "These scum are outside waiting to kill them. That's why I am doing it. It's no good anybody threatening me. My life is short anyway."

Mr O'Dowd, who has had a number of heart attacks, said he and his family had been forced to watch what drugs had done to Boy George.

Inquest is told how WPC died in chase

A young police constable yesterday described the last seconds of a high-speed car chase in which WPC Debbie Leat was killed.

PC Richard Cadden, aged 20, was co-driver of a police Ford Escort which chased a second Escort through the streets of Bristol, Avon, at speeds of up to 80mph.

He told an inquest in Bristol yesterday that he had suggested chasing the car after hearing it revving its engine at traffic lights while he and 20-year-old WPC Leat, known to her colleagues as "Action Girl", were parked.

He said: "WPC Leat slowed to follow the orange Escort through red lights then accelerated up to 80 miles per hour when the car in front suddenly turned off to the right."

"I felt we had gone too far to the left. We went past the junction and all I remember then is Debbie screaming my name, 'Rich'. I closed my eyes and when I opened them again I could feel a sharp pain in my chest."

"We had collided with something. When I looked over to Debbie I saw she was trapped and feared the worst."

PC Cadden said he found the car radio did not work and he had to kick his way out of the wrecked vehicle before struggling to a bench where he waited until firemen arrived.

The inquest was told that the car had probably been flying through the air when it hit a tree.

Sgt Graham Bates, who arrived on the scene shortly afterwards, said the car had probably swerved due to the damp road surface which had tended to drag the rear of the car out and cause it to slide.

Mr Donald Hawkins, the Avon coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death on WPC Leat. Of Samuel White Road, Hanham, Bristol.

Police are still trying to trace the driver of the car being pursued.

Jailed head freed by Appeal Court

A prep school headmaster, jailed for assaulting two of his pupils by beating them, has been freed by the Court of Appeal.

The court allowed an appeal by Derek Slade, aged 37, former head of Dalesdown prep school at Dial Post, near Hoxham, West Sussex, against the three-month sentence imposed at Chichester Crown Court last month.

Lord Justice Stephen Brown, sitting with Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice French, set aside the jail term and granted Slade a 12-month conditional discharge.

With remission, he had been due for release from Lewes Prison in mid-January.

Slade, who had admitted two assaults on pupils, was said to have beaten a boy of eight for writing a 363-word essay instead of 400 words.

At the time of the crown court hearing, Slade, a Church of England lay reader, was living with a sister in Derbyshire. He has sold the school.

Christmas jail threat for drivers

By Peter Evans Home Affairs Correspondent

Drivers who give a positive breath test after being stopped by police in Nottinghamshire on Christmas Day are likely to be locked up until Boxing Day if they have been in trouble before.

Acting Chief Superintendent Roger Storey, head of the county's traffic department, said yesterday that drivers will be held for the protection of the public for the remand court on Boxing Day, because one does not sit on Christmas Day. The qualification is a previous conviction in the last five years or a similar offence pending.

Nottinghamshire is setting the pace in the first crucial period in the Department of Transport's £600,000 seasonal campaign against drinking and driving, which hinges on such slogans as: "If you drink and drive you're a menace to society."

In three days since December 19, the number of breath tests requested by the Nottinghamshire force is up by a third on the average of 925 for the previous three years. The 1,525 requests this year have led to 58 drivers being arrested, or 3.8 per cent. The previous average for a similar period was 3.6 per cent.

Chief Supt Storey denied his force engaged in random testing, saying the powers of the police were adequate.

Gloucestershire police figures for positive tests in three days have jumped from 17 last year to 25 this. But a spokesman could not say how many tests there had been. There had been a national agreement not to give the test only of positive results, he said.

Drivers were warned yesterday not to rely on the use of alcohol self-test kits. The Automobile Association said: "These devices do not necessarily show when the blood alcohol content is at its peak. They encourage drivers to play Russian roulette with lives by drinking up to the legal limit."

"Drinking and driving is a lethal cocktail. The only safe drink is a soft drink."

AA patrols will, as always, be operating normally on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, providing 24 breakdown and relay service cover.

University elects first woman head

By Mark Dowd, Education Reporter

Bristol is poised to become the first university with a woman at the head of its main governing body.

Mrs Stella Clarke, a former governor of the BBC and sister of Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has been elected chairman of the university council from July 1987.

She will succeed Dr Richard Hill, a local industrialist who is to become one of the university's three pro-chancellors.

As head of the 64-member council which meets six times each academic year Mrs Clarke will have the ultimate responsibility for handling the university's finances, employing staff and ensuring building maintenance.

Indeed, her appointment is in keeping with Bristol's reputation as a trend-setter in matters of female equality. In 1876, as University College, it became the first institution of higher education to admit women on the basis of equality with men.

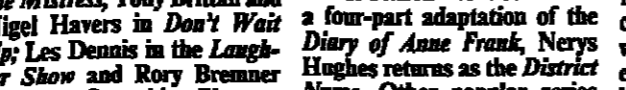
Mrs Clarke, aged 54, who was educated at Cheltenham Ladies' College and Trinity College, Dublin, said yesterday: "I am honoured to be

taking over this important post at a time which is very difficult for universities nationally."

The new chairman-elect will be hoping that her latest role in public life will attract less danger than her experience as a magistrate which she began in 1968.

Two years ago she was taken hostage in her own court by a prisoner who threatened her with a broken decanter and held her for several minutes before police intervened to free her.

Mrs Clarke is married with four sons and a daughter.



Mrs Clarke: "It is a great challenge."

Aids virus is rampant among haemophiliacs

Two-thirds of the 90 haemophiliacs in the Birmingham area are infected with the Aids virus, an inquest was told yesterday.

Dr Ian Franklin was giving evidence on the death of a haemophiliac who died from Aids after being treated with contaminated Factor 8 plasma imported from the US.

Dr Franklin, a consultant haematologist at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital, said that Peter Eustace, aged 30, a haemophiliac since birth, had been treated with Factor 8 for a number of years.

The Factor 8 plasma responsible for his infection had been imported from the United States but since the dangers were recognized all Factor 8 had been heat treated before use.

He said it was hoped that by the end of next year the UK would be self-sufficient in Factor 8 but at present only

between 10 and 25 per cent was home produced.

In the Birmingham area between 85 and 90 haemophiliacs were under treatment and it had been found that two thirds of these were infected with the virus.

The coroner, Dr Richard Whittington, recorded a verdict of "death by misadventure" on Mr Eustace, a graphic artist, of Dryden Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham.

He said he would write to the regional health authority suggesting that more resources be allocated for the follow-up of Aids victims and possible contacts.

After the inquest Dr Franklin said: "I would like to make it clear that only a very few of these people actually have Aids. The others have antibodies in their blood but are not showing any of the effects."

He also launched a collection for Miss Jones, who was robbed of her handbag containing a cheque book, keys, credit cards and £90.

Although there have so far been no arrests, several of the cheques have been forged and passed, giving rise to hopes that the attackers will be traced.

The judge had earlier described the attack as a particularly revolting one on an elderly defenceless woman.

Miss Jones was able to return to work soon after she was attacked although she received black eyes, a swollen nose and throat injuries. She fought back and bit one of the men.

Judge's plea in mugging

By Kenneth Gosling

A judge at the Central Criminal Court who has taken a personal interest in the welfare of a court user attacked by muggers has appealed to the public to turn detective and track down the attackers before Christmas.

Judge Argyle, QC, said yesterday it would be "a nice present" for the victim, Miss Rosena Jones, if the culprits were arrested soon.

It was after Miss Jones, aged 60, was ambushed by two young men outside Mile End Underground station in October that Judge Argyle put up a personal reward of £100 for information leading to the arrest of the assailants.

He also launched a collection for Miss Jones, who was robbed of her handbag containing a cheque book, keys, credit cards and £90.

Although there have so far been no arrests, several of the cheques have been forged and passed, giving rise to hopes that the attackers will be traced.

The judge had earlier described the attack as a particularly revolting one on an elderly defenceless woman.

Miss Jones was able to return to work soon after she was attacked although she received black eyes, a swollen nose and throat injuries. She fought back and bit one of the men.

TV programmes for 1987

The BBC yesterday promised viewers more than 100 new programmes in a £75 million television package for the new year.

The money is being spent mainly on "home grown" material which will give viewers 1,500 hours of BBC-originated programmes in the first three months of 1987.

On the comedy front Jasper Carrott returns with a new late night Saturday show and Young Ones' stars Rick Mayall and Nigel Planer have a new comedy series called *Filthy Rich and Catfist*.

Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders have their own variety show and comedy crosses the border in *Foreign Bodies*, a new series set in Belfast, and looks at the future in *Red Dwarf*, a space-age series.

Bob Monkhouse will host the revival of former ITV show, *Opportunity Knocks*, and zany comedian Kenny Everett will present a new quiz game called *Brainstorm*.

Tom O'Connor will have his own daytime show and returning favourites include *Bread*, *The Mistres*; Tony Britton and Nigel Havers in *Don't Wait Up*; Les Dennis in the *Laughter Show* and Rory Bremner with *Now Something Else*.

Stars appearing in new drama productions include Ian Hogg, in a 10-part police series, *Rockliffe's Babies*, and Susan Penhaligon in Fay Weldon's first original series for TV, *Heart of the Country*.

Bob Peck, Miranda Richardson and Joanne Whalley star in *Screen Two* productions and Lenny Henry gets his first

dramatic break in the *Screen Two* film, *Coast to Coast*.

Ian Richardson plays the traitor, Anthony Blunt, in *Blunt*, and Cheryl Campbell stars in *A Sort of Innocence* - a six-part serial set in the West Midlands.

The season will also include a four-part adaptation of the *Diary of Anne Frank*, Nerys Hughes returns as the *District Nurse*. Other popular series returning include *Miss Marple*, *Bergerac*, *One-by-One* and *Strike It Rich*.

Announcing the package Mr Michael Grade, BBC TV's director of programmes, said: "Innovation is our resolution for the new year - in drama, entertainment, and factual programmes there will be new ideas, new format and new

faces plus the return of many familiar favourites.

Among the main offerings in the new year is *Crisis*, in which three leading politicians will be confronted with an imaginary hijack.

The programme will go out over two hours on a Sunday night and Roy Jenkins, Francis Pym and Gerald Kaufman, will have to decide, aided by expert legal, military and diplomatic advisers, how to tackle the hijack of a British airliner, forced to land in Beirut.

Series brought in from abroad include the return of *Cagney and Lacey*, two new comedy shows from America - *Perfect Strangers*, and *Head of the Class* - and from Australia a five part mini-series, *Arzoo*, with Paul Hogan.

FORCED DISPOSAL SALE
PER CUSTOMS WAREHOUSING REGULATIONS OF 1979, NOTICE 232.
NOTICE GIVEN BY
HER MAJESTY'S CUSTOMS & EXCISE

A MAMMOTH INVENTORY OF OVER 3500
PERSIAN AND ORIENTAL RUGS AND CARPETS

ALL RUGS REMOVED FROM THE BONDED STORES OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST WHOLESALE
FOLLOWING NOTICE FROM HER MAJESTY'S CUSTOMS & EXCISE

SALE NOW ON
DAILY 9AM-9PM
INCLUDING FRIDAY BOXING DAY

AT THE WAREHOUSE, ROXBY PLACE LONDON SW6

Directions: Travelling west along Old Brompton Road take first turning left after West Brompton tube station into Seagrave Road - Take first left again into Roxby Place.

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	PRICE	DESCRIPTION	SIZE	PRICE
PAKISTANI FINE DOUBBLE KNOT SUPER WORSTED	6'x4'	2425	YALEMEH DOSHMEAI	5'11" x 3'	2525
PAKISTANI HAMAADAN	12'x9'	11,150	SHIRAZ	6'11" x 4'11"	2450
CHINESE SUPER WASHED	7'x4'	2425	AFGHAN	12'x9'	2175
FILE	12'x9'	22,250	BALKAN TARRIZ	10'11" x 7'11"	21,200
FINKE KESHAN	6'9" x 4'8"	1,750	ANTIQUE CAUCASIAN KAZAK		23,200
TURKISH KHELLIM	6'x3'6"	1,750	ANTIQUE CAUCASIAN SHIRVAN		23,500
BOKHARA TABLE MATS	1'x1'	12	BEJOUCH	4'10" x 3'11"	895
GLUCO SILK	8'x3'	22,800	TARRIZ	7'11" x 4'4"	22,150
SPAHAN	8'x5'	28,800	JAPUR	10'11" x 4'2"	22,950
NAIN - PART SILK	6'2" x 3'7"	1,350	MORI BOKHARA		245
OLD AFSHAR	7'2" x 4'8"	8900	PUSHI		245
BENNEH	2'4" x 3'10"	2850	OLD ANATOL	9'8" x 5'10"	2400
SILK HERKEE	5'11" x 3'2"	24,200	KELIM	5'11" x 3'11"	2195
SILK KAISERI	6'2" x 4'3"	23,250	SAMAKAND	10'11" x 3'3"	22,600
SHIRAZ	7'2" x 4'3"	2295	RUSSIAN BOKHARA	8'x3'11"	2110
YAGALI	6'11" x 3'10"	2295			255

SPACE SIMPLY DOES NOT PERMIT LISTING ALL
All prices ex-warehouse, excluding VAT.

PLUS SIZES RANGING FROM 3' x 2' UP TO 18' x 12'
IN SILK AND WOOL, AND A HUGE INVENTORY OF RUNNERS.

TERMS OF PAYMENT: CASH, CHEQUE AND ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS

APPOINTED ADMINISTRATORS: A. WELLESLEY BRISCOE & PARTNERS LTD. TEL 01-381 8558; 4645.

REPLACING YOUR WINDSCREEN NEEDN'T BE A COSTLY OPERATION.

When your face hits the windscreen you'll be glad that the windscreen gives way to it.

But even with a laminated windscreen you could still cut your face to ribbons.

That's why Pilkington has developed an anti-lacerative windscreen that will give way but not splinter, making it even safer.

A thin plastic coating bonded to the glass holds it together (what's more it won't craze; if the windscreen is struck by a stone it merely chips or cracks leaving a clear view of the road).

Of course, if everyone were to wear their seat belts then this sort of accident need rarely, if ever, occur.

Unfortunately these accidents happen every day. That's why we have to continue to make the glass safer.

In the USA where they have the most stringent safety regulations of any country, Pilkington is by far the major supplier of automotive glass.

Pilkington is responsible for about 17% of the world's output, last year glazing over 7 million cars.

Just one of the achievements of a company that has successfully built itself up to become the world's leading glass company, with a worldwide turnover of around £2,000,000,000.

Pilkington is currently developing an invisible windscreen heating element which can defrost itself in under two minutes.

A windscreen containing an almost invisible car aerial.



A car window so tough that stolen car stereos may soon become as outdated a phenomenon as The Bay City Rollers.

No other glass manufacturer produces as large a range of products, from flat glass to glass fibre, from ophthalmic lenses to the optics for missile guidance systems.

These are the innovations that give Pilkington the edge over the competition.

Although, in this case thankfully, not the cutting edge.



PILKINGTON

The world's leading glass company.

صكنا من الاعمال

Lord Devlin opposed to ending juror challenge

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lord Devlin, the former law lord, has come out against the Government's proposal to abolish the defence right of challenge to jurors.

He said that he was against "any diminution of the right of peremptory challenge" unless, at the same time, action was taken to develop the procedure of challenge "for cause" that is, with reason.

"Before we interfere with peremptory challenge we should see if there can be a proper procedure for challenge for cause."

He was also critical of the Government's intention to end the defence right of challenge while leaving intact the crown's right to ask jurors to "stand by".

"I have always said there must be an equal deal for both. If the peremptory challenge is removed, the crown must give up the right to stand by."

Instead, he said, there must be a proper system of challenge for cause for both sides.

The former law lord's comments come as the Government is preparing for a tough fight in Parliament over its proposals, contained in the Criminal Justice Bill.

Lord Devlin said that he would not favour such an expansion of challenge for cause that one would "go the way of the American system".

In the United States, jurors were endlessly challenged over a period of days or even weeks before a trial, and the whole procedure had become a sort of "preliminary contest", he said.

In Britain challenge for cause had become discredited in the last century and fallen into disuse. But it was worth considering whether through legislation or "by ascertaining the attitude of judges" the procedure could be reformed, Lord Devlin said.

"But if you merely put forward a proposal for ending peremptory challenge without seeing if anything can be done about challenge for cause I do not support it."

The comments by Lord Devlin, for long a passionate supporter of the jury system,



Lord Devlin, who wants a wider inquiry into system

£1m is left to school by old boy

A public school has received a £1 million Christmas windfall in the will of a former pupil.

Mr Norman Sharpe, a bachelor who died last July, aged 79, rarely visited his old school, Giggleswick, near Settle, North Yorkshire, where he was a day boy between 1921 and 1925. But he retained a deep affection for the school, which has a royal charter dating from the 1500s.

Mr Sharpe, OBE, and holder of the American Legion of Honour for wartime services, was the former chairman and managing director of a greetings card and fine art business in Bradford, West Yorkshire.

The family business, which was established by his grandfather, was taken over recently by Hallmark of the United States.

Mr Peter Hobson, headmaster of the £5,000-a-year school, which has about 400 boys and girls aged eight to 18, said yesterday that the bequest was "totally unexpected".

He added: "Everyone here is deeply grateful to him for this marvellous demonstration of faith in his old school and his belief in independent education."

He said he thought the legacy would be used for investment to further guarantee the school's long-term security.

"We shall then consider other possible benefits for present and future generations of boys and girls."

"Giggleswick can now face the future with even greater confidence. We are now in an even stronger position to make a substantial contribution to the future prosperity of independent education in the north of England."

Mr Sharpe left more than £2 million, about half his fortune going to the school. Other beneficiaries will include his family, and certain former employees of his old company.

He is survived by a brother, Donald, who lives in retirement near Ilkley, West Yorkshire, and has no children.

Mr Edward Green, aged 71, a lifelong business friend of Mr Sharpe and executor of his estate, said: "He was a most able businessman and totally dedicated to building up his business. But he always had the interests of his workers at heart."

"Mr Sharpe lived very quietly as a bachelor. It's typical of him to remember his old school."

Other wills, page 14

Bomber in photo is jailed

James Hazell, whose photograph appeared in national newspapers carrying a petrol bomb during riots in Handsworth, Birmingham, was yesterday jailed for five years at the city's crown court.

Hazell later threw the bomb into a building supplies shop on the second day of riots last year, after a visit to the area by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary.

Mr Anthony Barker, QC, for the prosecution, said Hazell was identified from the photograph by police and a woman who knew him but he went into hiding in London for a few days before giving himself up.

When it came to his trial, Hazell had changed his appearance from when the photograph was taken. Instead of jeans and a floppy cap he wore spectacles, a smart suit and a bow tie.

One jury was unable to reach a verdict at a trial in September, but a second jury found him guilty last Friday on the charge of arson.

Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, for Hazell, said his client was given the petrol bomb by another man and had thrown it at the shop rather than at police.

Judge Potter told Hazell: "You committed a spectacular act of arson in the front and full view of a riotous mob in a manner calculated to encourage that mob to further lawless violence."

Rinka races round on a spending spree for toys



Rinka Mordecai, aged nine, from north London, speeds her shopping trolley round Selfridges yesterday helping to choose \$6,000 of toys for Capital Radio's Christmas appeal. The money came from a concert by Status Quo and a £1,000 donation from the store (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

Six bailed after death at match

Mr Barry Adamson, chairman of Scarborough Football Club, who collapsed after an incident during a match at the club, died of a heart attack, an inquest was told yesterday.

Six football supporters from the Morecambe and Lancaster areas were remanded on bail by magistrates at Scarborough accused of an offence arising out of violence at the match on Saturday.

All six, aged between 17 and 24, were accused of unlawfully fighting and making an affray to the terror and disturbance of others at the Athletic ground, Scarborough, during the FA Trophy match between Scarborough and Morecambe.

Mr Geoff Heslop, chairman of the magistrates, said all would be remanded on bail until January 19 on sureties of between £250 and £500.

Mr Michael Oakley, the Scarborough coroner, yesterday opened and adjourned the inquest on Mr Adamson, who was aged 47.

Evidence was given in a written statement by his wife, Elizabeth, who identified the body at Scarborough hospital after violence at the ground on Saturday. She said her husband had been in good health.

PC Alan Fern, the coroner's officer, said a post-mortem examination carried out by Dr Michael Green, a Home Office pathologist, had given the cause of death as a heart attack.

Dr Green had not completed his report but the cause of death would not be changed.

The coroner adjourned the inquest to a date to be fixed because further inquiries had still to be made into the incident.

Mass trespass Evictions to be speeded up

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Comments received on the Lord Chancellor's consultation paper on summary proceedings for the possession of land.

There was general agreement about the reduction from five to two days in respect of open land but there was concern about such a change in the case of residential premises. It was felt there would be difficulty in obtaining legal advice in such a short period.

Two other changes include clarification of provisions for serving applications on defendants on open land. It will be possible to serve them by fixing envelopes containing the summons to stakes at conspicuous points on the land. And masters and district registrars will be able to hear applications to the High Court instead of judges.

The changes will come into force on January 12. Similar changes are to be made in proceedings in the county courts.

At the time of the conveyance, trespass was not a criminal offence. Concerted action to identify potential trespassers in travelling groups so that preventive legal moves can be made has also been recommended in advice to farmers and landowners by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Home-seekers are being urged to enter the housing market now while prices are "frozen countrywide".

The suggestion comes in the latest survey, published today, of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, which says that with prices levelling out it is a good time to buy, before the expected increases next spring.

The survey for the quarter ending on November 30 shows that nearly 60 per cent of the

'Frozen' house prices bring hope to buyers

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Home-seekers are being urged to enter the housing market now while prices are "frozen countrywide".

The suggestion comes in the latest survey, published today, of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, which says that with prices levelling out it is a good time to buy, before the expected increases next spring.

The survey for the quarter ending on November 30 shows that nearly 60 per cent of the

Glut of large turkeys brings down prices

The price of large fresh turkeys plummeted at wholesale markets around Britain yesterday, with some traders offering two birds for the price of one to clear stocks.

During early trading the price of large fresh birds fell from 70p a pound to 40p, but many dealers refused to buy knowing there was no outlet.

Last year there was a shortage of fresh turkeys and prices were very high, according to Mr Alan Dan, marketing director of Dewhurst's, Britain's largest fresh street butchers chain.

"This year farmers tried to cash in again but there are too many big birds on the market, from 16lb to 22lb and over," he said.

A spokesman for the National Farmers' Union said that farmers had increased production by about 12 per cent this year.

The problem has been caused by overproduction and the mild weather, which meant the turkeys put on weight faster than usual. Birds weighing between 10 and 14lb, the most popular size, are still available, Mr Dan said.

Last year, fresh birds were selling for £1 and more a

Two jailed in Faslane bribe case

Two former company directors who bribed officials at the Faslane submarine base, Strathclyde, were each jailed for a year yesterday and ordered to pay £25,000 compensation to the Secretary of State for Defence.

John Nixon, aged 55, of Rainhill, Merseyside, and John Cackett, aged 44, of Scarborough, Lancashire, had been convicted at an earlier court of bribing Civil Servants at the base with £22,000 to allow the unauthorized removal of waste oil, and of stealing more than one million litres of waste oil.

The High Court in Edinburgh was told that they were directors of a Boodle oil supply company and had acted with their manager in Scotland, William McLeod, aged 36, of Bellshill, Lanarkshire, who is serving a nine-month sentence for bribing officials.

Arsonists hit Welsh cottage

A holiday cottage on a hillside near Conwy, Gwynedd, was almost destroyed yesterday in a fire which had the hallmarks of an attack by Welsh extremists. There have been nearly 200 similar incidents since 1979.

The cottage is owned by Mr John Quallington and his wife, Rosaleen, of Hanwood, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. They bought it 20 years ago and renovated it from a near ruin.

Double-glazed death trap

Home-made double glazing was blamed yesterday for the death of a woman aged 21, poisoned by carbon monoxide in the bedroom of her home in Crown Terrace, Belper, Derbyshire.

Miss Shelley Johnson had left a gas fire on and the door closed. Police said polythene had been tacked across the window, preventing ventilation.

Fair opens for the last time

The Christmas fair on the old cattle market in Norwich city centre, a tradition going back more than 150 years, opened yesterday for the last time.

A £60 million shopping complex is to be built there. Work will begin next year after a £500,000 archaeological dig on the site, which is alongside the city's Norman castle.

High Court judge divorced

The wife of Mr Justice Harman, a London High Court judge, was granted a divorce yesterday in the court room opposite the one where he usually sits.

Sir Jeremiah Harman, aged 56, did not contest the proceedings.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

Every Liberal MP has fought his way into the House of Commons by his own personal efforts. There is no such thing as a safe Liberal seat. So there is a higher proportion of distinctive, even quirky, personalities among the Liberals than in any other parliamentary party.

Nobody represented this tendency more strongly than David Penhaligon. He was above all, and in the best sense of the word, a character. This was evident, in the most obvious but least important sense, the manner he opened his mouth. His strong Cornish accent marked him as a politician with such deep roots in his region that he was immune to the homogenizing pressures of Westminster.

But there are quite a number of essentially, if not quite so emphatically, regional politicians in the House of Commons. It was two other qualities that made Penhaligon unique.

He has known no other parliamentarianism as honourous so regularly as an effective political instrument. Sometimes this became a trap as well as a strength. Sometimes it obscured the seriousness of his purpose. He was frequently extremely funny, but he was much more than a funny man who had strayed into politics.

Humour that became habit

Because he clowning so much, and so successfully, he could be mistaken for a clown. But that was a gross misunderstanding. Time and time again he employed humour as a deliberate weapon to achieve serious ends. It was a rhetorical device, which worked so well that it became a habit.

It was a habit that he indulged too much. I think he appreciated when he became the Liberal economic spokesman that this is not a subject which most British people regard as appropriate for laughter. It is not known in this country as the dismal science for nothing. Yet the imp of wit kept on escaping from his control.

This damaged his standing in some quarters. He was not at his best in the Commons. But his humour often enabled him to be a remarkably effective debater on other occasions.

It also contributed to his other great quality as a link between high politics and the general public. In the age of the career politician he sounded the quaintest of ordinary man. As with anyone who manages to convey the impression of being outstandingly ordinary, he was not. There was art in his simplicity. But it was a considerable political attribute.

It is in this sense that I believe he is a loss to British politics as well as to his party. Although he was a serious politician, I doubt if he was a particularly deep one. Although he was mentioned from time to time as a possible successor to David Steel if he should give up the Liberal leadership after the next election, I question if Penhaligon would have been chosen and even more if he would have been more comfortable in the role.

An inspirer of confidence

If there had been an Alliance government in his lifetime, I am not sure that he would have been a successful senior minister. But politics needs those who are able to make the process and the problems comprehensible to a wider public. That was Penhaligon's gift.

He was a man of common sense who was able to inspire confidence that he was a reasonable and well intentioned sort of chap. How well he could inspire confidence was evident from his success as a constituency MP.

Winning his seat from the Conservatives by a mere 464 votes in October, 1974, he built up his majority to more than 10,000 in the last election.

He also played no small part in developing the strength of the Alliance throughout the south-west. It is probably there that his party will feel his loss most acutely. But he was recognized as an attractive personality throughout the country.

As the tasks of government become more and more specialized, so the need becomes all the greater for politicians who can be equally at home in a ministry, in Parliament or with the general public. David Penhaligon was an outstanding example of an intensely political politician who never lost touch with people outside politics.

Farming surpluses: 2

Foresters and bird lovers square up for fight

In the second of three articles John Young, Agriculture Correspondent, looks at the dispute about large-scale afforestation.

The most important wildlife habitats in Europe and home to species found nowhere else.

The numbers of birds, notably greenshanks, golden plovers and dunlins, will be reduced and further threatened by predators living among the trees, they say.

The foresters reply that between them they manage 56,325 hectares out of a total of 192,000 - about 29 per cent - and that only 32,330 hectares are already planted or scheduled.

They also claim "there can be no doubt" that afforestation will increase the number of birds and that there are, for example, many more golden eagles since the plantations came to Scotland.

Conservancy Council and that they must be discussed with other conservation bodies, local authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Such arguments cut little ice with the conservationists who are convinced that most of upland Britain and indeed, if farming becomes uneconomic, parts of lowland Britain are in danger of being covered in huge monotonous blankets of evergreens.

Most of the environmental groups, including the Council for the Protection of Rural England and the Ramblers' Association, have demanded planning controls on forestry. This is something which successive governments have so far resisted, although they are now part of Labour Party policy.

Conservationist objections have recently been intensified by the knowledge that a number of wealthy individuals, "showbiz stars" among them, have invested in forestry as a means of tax avoidance.

Under the present rules they are able to set off net expenditure against income from other sources, and are not subsequently liable to pay tax if and when they sell up.

Leaders of the forest industry see objections to this as evidence that the conservationist movement has been infiltrated by politically motivated people whose main concern is to attack the rich.

Mr Brian Howell, of Fountain Forestry, said: "Their attitude is totally irresponsible. A very successful and important industry is being damaged by irresponsible comments, and we resent it very much."

Tomorrow: Are more trees the answer?



WORLD SUMMARY

Briton freed in 'goodwill' gesture

South African-backed rebels in Mozambique yesterday released eight foreign hostages, including a Briton, as a gesture of "goodwill" for Christmas (Nicholas Beeson writes).

The former captives, who were seized by the Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo) last month, were handed over to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross at the border of Malawi and Mozambique.

The hostages were identified as Mr Ian Robertson, a British agricultural engineer, a West German aid worker, and four Portuguese nationals, including three Jesuit priests.

Mr Robertson, aged 54, whose wife lives in the Algarve, was working on an EEC aid project in Ulongue for the Mozambique Government when he was captured by the rebels. His release followed direct talks between a British diplomat and a representative of Renamo. He is expected to be flown to Portugal in time for Christmas.

Libya attack in Chad

N'djamena (AP) - Libyan aircraft, artillery and tanks yesterday launched a fierce attack, with the use of napalm and toxic gas shells, on loyalist positions in the Tibesti Mountains of northern Chad.

Mr Khamis Togni, chief spokesman for President Habré of Chad, said the Libyan attack concentrated on guerrilla positions controlling Bardai, once the "capital" of former President Goukouni Oueddei's rebel government, where the Libyans suffered a heavy defeat on Saturday. He said that the Chadian defenders held their ground and that Bardai remains in the hands of Goukouni's forces.

Mr Goukouni, leader of a Libyan-sponsored rebel government in Bardai, was ousted by other rebel leaders in October and took most of his estimated 3,000 mountain fighters into a spontaneous alliance with President Habré, his former enemy, against the Libyans.

Border redrawn 100 die in Iraqi raid

The Hague (AP) - The World Court yesterday divided up 1,200 square miles of disputed territory claimed by both Burkina Faso and Mali which drew the West African nations into a brief border war a year ago.

In its ruling, a five-man special chamber of the court divided the disputed areas, which lie in the eastern parts of both nations, into roughly equal parts. The proposed 124½-mile border line gives Mali a bigger chunk of the disputed territory's western zone and Burkina Faso a larger portion in the eastern zone.

Law report, page 23

Tehran (Reuters) - Iran said more than 100 people died yesterday in an Iraqi air raid on the western town of Esfahabad-e Gharb, and announced an extension of its reprisal shelling of military and economic targets inside Iraq.

Tehran Radio said that Iraqi jets struck the town for the second time in as many days as relatives buried the 103 victims of Sunday's raid on the provincial capital of Bakhtaraneh near by.

Mr Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, has appealed to the United Nations for urgent action to stop such attacks, the radio said.

Bokassa trial dispute

Bangui (AP) - The judge in the trial of former Emperor Bokassa yesterday denied a defence request for a week's recess, saying that little progress had been made and that the court could not afford to waste more time. The defence argued that their client, aged 65, was suffering from high blood pressure and needed time to recuperate.

Judge Edouard Franck reacted heatedly to defence protests over his ruling, shouting: "The court has already made its decision." He said that the court could only afford to take December 24 and 25 to observe Christmas holidays. The French defence lawyer, M Francis Szpiner, responded that the process would move more quickly "if we quit calling the same witnesses and asking the same questions".

Bilingual banned

Ottawa - The Government of Quebec has resumed laying charges against merchants who display signs not composed exclusively in French, the province's official language (John Best writes).

Charges have been laid against 27 firms for posting signs written bilingually in English and French. The actions broke a moratorium on prosecutions that had lasted nearly a year while the Government awaited a Quebec appeal ruling on the constitutional validity of the French-only requirement.

Strikers too noisy

Johannesburg - The management of one of South Africa's biggest supermarket chains threatened yesterday to go to court in a bid to stop striking black workers "clapping, singing and dancing" (Ray Kennedy writes).

Residents of flats near an outlet of OK Bazaars in the centre of Johannesburg said that they had been kept awake by the din from the store.

Ninety-two of the chain's 202 stores nationwide have been hit by the four-day-old strike over a demand for an immediate pay rise.

Voyager pilots join heroes of aviation

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

As the experimental aircraft Voyager circles the globe non-stop without refuelling, Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, its pilots, are being compared with aviation heroes such as Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart.

Cooped up in a cabin the size of a telephone kiosk, side and sleeping space for one on the port side.

Rutan and Yeager have been working in shifts of four to eight hours. For exercise, they use an elastic rubber device for working on every joint every day. For hygiene, they use alcohol-based skin and hair cleansers that do not require the use of water.

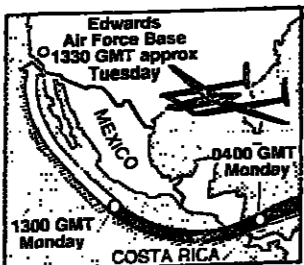
They took only one change of clothing, but several of undergarments. Toilet facilities on Voyager are primitive. A main concern has been drinking enough liquids, and they have been monitoring each other to see that they are doing this. Another big headache has been the noise of engines and the wind.

Lack of sleep and fatigue have been the big enemies. They were so tired on Saturday morning, while crossing the Atlantic, that they forgot to add oil to the rear engine. This caused an abrupt rise in engine temperature and gave them the biggest scare of their flight.

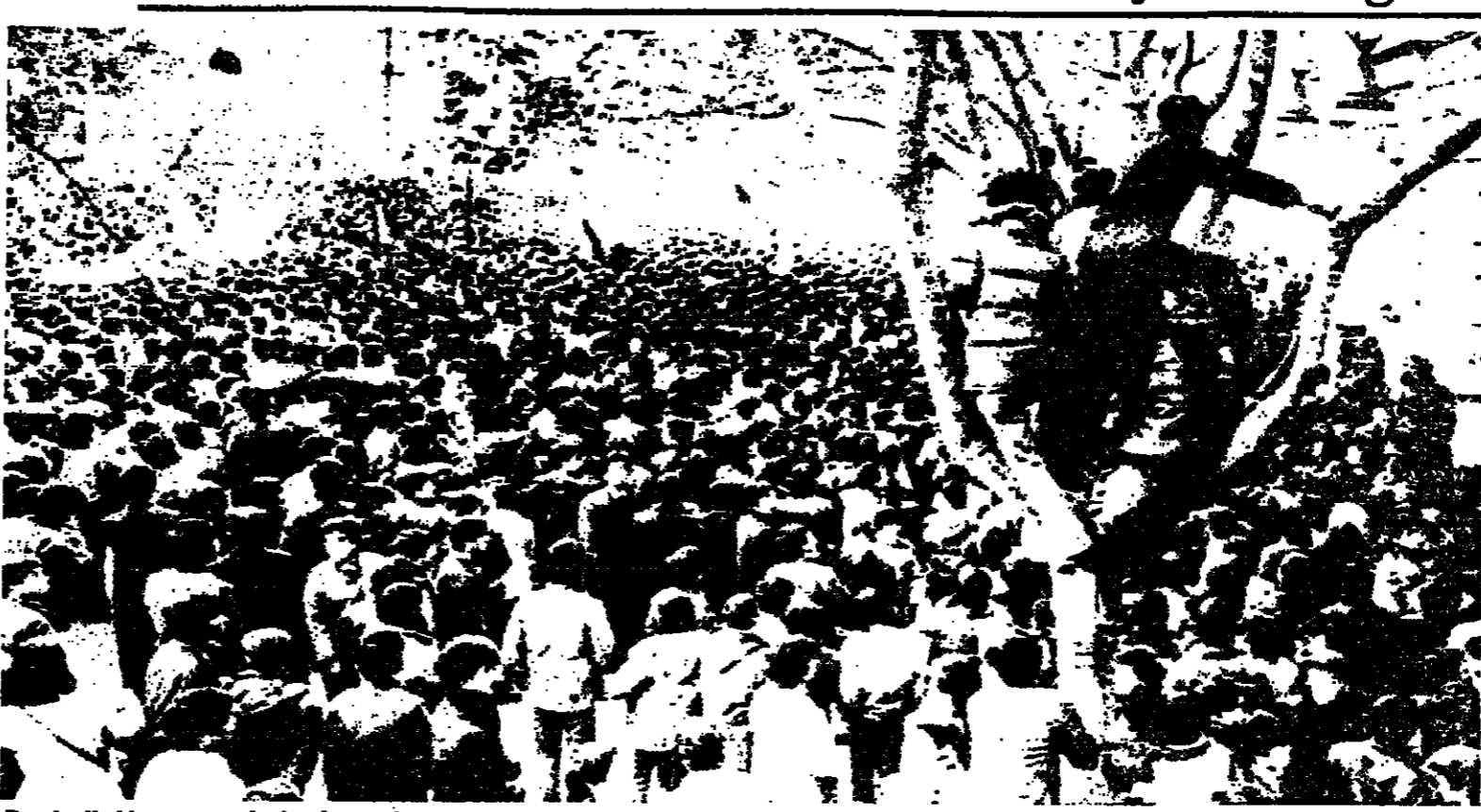
But within 10 minutes they discovered that the engine, one of two, was nearly two quarts low on oil. They quickly added more, and there was no damage.

The pilots have generally kept Voyager below 15,000 feet, to avoid developing a potentially fatal accumulation of fluid in the lungs after 70 to 90 hours of flying.

The main trouble areas have been the central Pacific and Atlantic, where winds converge, and southern Africa, where head winds arise.



Aftermath of mass rallies for democracy in Shanghai streets



People climbing trees to obtain a better view of the demonstrations calling for democracy and press freedom in Shanghai's People's Square on Sunday.

Peking clamps down on protest

Shanghai (Reuters) - Chinese authorities placed a clamp on student protests yesterday, deploying 200 police around the site of Sunday's mass demonstration and warning that official permission would be needed for further rallies.

Thousands of people demanding more democracy and press freedom had gathered in Shanghai's People's Square on Sunday in the biggest protest seen in China for years.

Early yesterday afternoon about 200 police arrived at the square in vans and dispersed any groups of people there. They also screened the passes of anyone seeking to enter.

In a clearly co-ordinated crackdown, the authorities also began a propaganda blitz against the protest organizers.

Shanghai Radio broadcast a warning from the city police calling on citizens to "expose trouble-making and disrupting activities by a small number of people with ulterior motives and criminals in order to maintain public order".

The city's main newspaper, Wen Hai Bao, said that "criminals took the opportunity to make trouble" during the last two days of demonstrations, which had "caused serious obstructions at major traffic centres, affected production and social order".

The radio said that from now on, official permission would have to be obtained for any rally or demonstration.

It listed a number of banned activities and said that those violating the provisions would be "severely punished by public security and judicial organs according to the seriousness of their individual cases and according to the provisions of the criminal law".

Witnesses said that another 200 police lined the streets outside the city hall, which had been surrounded yesterday by thousands of students and their supporters. Movement at city hall and in People's Square was limited.

There was no sign of any student groups or gatherings. Security was also tight on the university campuses, from where the students led the marches. People entering the Communications University needed to show identity passes and the public-address system broadcast messages saying that students had been misled and did not have a clear idea of what was going on.

Classes seemed to be continuing as normal. But one foreign teacher said that about half of her students were missing.

Yesterday's coverage on Shanghai radio and television was the first direct mention in the domestic media of a state of unrest that has swept university campuses in the last three weeks.

On Sunday night, the New China News Agency accused students of having beaten up 31 police who asked them to stop blocking a city street at rush hour. It also said hundreds of demonstrators broke into government offices.

HONG KONG - Travellers arriving yesterday from Shanghai said that they had seen no significant violence and had been impressed by the good mood of the demonstrators and the moderate response of the police. Some students have accused the latter of arresting several of their colleagues (David Bonavia writes).

Experience of political demonstrations in China over 40-odd years is that they are rarely spontaneous and are manipulated by high-level political groups as weapons against their antagonists.

What may be significant is that yesterday's ban on further marches shows that, however it began, the upsurge of political sentiment has gone further than was intended.

Paris transport crippled as Métro drivers join rail and sea strike

Paris (AP) - Most Paris commuter railway operators walked out yesterday, joining a strike by rail and maritime workers that has crippled transport throughout the country.

Drivers on the French capital's Métro and suburban commuter trains walked out to demand higher pay and changes in job classification. Only four in 10 trains were operating, with several lines virtually shut down.

Negotiations between the management of the SNCF, France's national railroad system, and railway workers were scheduled for last night. The SNCF walkout began as a wildcat strike on December 18, and has since gained the backing of several unions.

The strike, which arose over working conditions and a new salary scale, continued to disrupt train services across France during the peak of the holiday travel season.

On main lines out of Paris traffic ranged from one to two trains leaving some stations, to none at all at the Gare du Nord, where picketers were blocking the tracks. The TGV, the high-speed train, was maintaining its normal schedule on three of seven lines, but only half its service on the others.

At Chambéry, in the Alpine foothills, striking workers were blocking the high-speed train line, forcing travellers to continue toward the area's many ski resorts by bus.

M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, met his ministers responsible for public sector affairs yesterday to discuss the strikes. His office issued a statement saying the conservative government's strategy to cut inflation and stimulate the economy meant salaries must increase within strict limits.

"France is at a decisive moment in its policy of economic reform," the statement said. "If this policy is questioned, all our efforts to increase employment will be compromised."

M Jacques Doufiagues, the Transport Minister, has urged the railwaymen to go back to work, saying that their complaints did not justify "hitting travellers in the days leading up to Christmas".

Negotiations between representatives of striking merchant seamen and dockworkers were under way in Paris yesterday.

The maritime strike, which began on December 8, has closed the ports of Marseille, Nantes, La Rochelle and Le Havre to most cargo traffic.

The merchant seamen and dockworkers - belonging to the Communist-led CGT union - went on strike to protest against planned changes in the merchant marine system announced by the Government in October.

The package includes a measure that would allow certain French ships to employ foreign sailors.

The domestic airline, Air Inter, target of a two-day strike by flight crews who are opposed to the airline's plans to cut their number, resumed services on Sunday with 140 extra flights.

Sakharov freedom sets seal on Gorbachov reform

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

When Dr Andrei Sakharov sets foot in Moscow this morning, for the first time since his banishment in January it will be the culmination of a dramatic series of recent events which have set the symbolic seal on the Gorbachov era and distanced it formally from the legacy left by Leonid Brezhnev.

In addition to Mr Gorbachov's personal decision to free the country's most brilliant dissident, the past week has seen the sacking of Mr Dinukhamed Kamayev, one of Brezhnev's last surviving cronies, and the subsequent unprecedented admission that his replacement as Party chief had sparked nationalist rioting on the streets of the Kazakhstan capital of Alma-Ata.

In the spirit of glasnost (openness) and self-criticism being fostered as the central plank of Mr Gorbachov's reformist policy, the decision to publicize the riots was accompanied by a hard-hitting assessment in Pravda attacking much of Brezhnev's policy and concluding that by the end of his period in power in 1982 the state had slipped into disarray.

Although the article, to mark the 80th anniversary of his birth, balanced criticism with some praise, it ruthlessly dissected the failings of his later years with references to food shortages, economic decline, a personality cult, nepotism and corruption.

The effect of such criticism in a society where sycophancy has been a more common method of dealing with recent Party leaders cannot be over-emphasized. "We knew that things were going wrong, especially the corruption. But we just did not dare speak out about them," one Communist Party member said.

Such has been the pace of change in the closing stages of 1986 that few outsiders even noticed the article in last Saturday's Izvestia stating that the crew of the Admiral Nakhimov, which sank on August 31 with the loss of nearly 400 lives, were notorious drunkards. It said that since 1981, 18 captains, 75 first officers and 141 senior mechanics had been dismissed for "disciplinary reasons" from the Soviet company which owned the liner.

Commenting on the revelations, one Western diplomat said: "Even in the recent past, the appearance of such a piece of reporting in the official Government newspaper would have raised eyebrows. But now that journalists have been given new freedom, it is becoming more the order of the day. This is more than just a cosmetic change."

One of the immediate results of the decision to free Dr Sakharov and to pardon his wife, Mrs Yelena Bonner, has been to breathe new life into Moscow's dissident community and to prompt hopes that such an unmistakable upturn in Kremlin policy presages a new period of more enlightened treatment of dissenters.

For many Jewish refuseniks and others who have had to endure official opprobrium, harassment and even brutality, the central importance is seen not so much in the ending of the Sakharovs' lonely exile but in the fact that such a move was deliberately publicized in the official Soviet media, including Pravda and the television news.

"This is a change, a real change," explained one Jewish woman whose family has been waiting with increasing pessimism for eight years for permission to emigrate.

Westerners have noted with some surprise that the new mood of cautious optimism about human rights is to be found mainly among dissidents, refuseniks and others who have most reason to be cynical about Kremlin promises of a wind of change.

In conversations with journalists, leaders of the dissident community have repeatedly given credit to Mr Gorbachov for the changed atmosphere, with some arguing that the time taken to release Dr Sakharov was indicative of resistance inside the party hierarchy.

Professor Valery Siefert, a prominent refusenik who has been trying since 1979 to secure an exit visa, said: "I think that there is a real debate about democratization going on inside the Kremlin, with the upper echelons fighting with the middle ranks of the bureaucracy to make important changes in this area."

Once the immediate euphoria surrounding Dr Sakharov's return to his home has subsided, pressure is expected to mount for his freedom to be matched by similar leniency towards other dissidents.

Western sources said yesterday that Mr Yosef Begun, Ms Ida Nudal and the so-called "original refusenik", Mr Vladimir Slepak, one of the first Soviet Jews to organize the teaching of Hebrew, were expected to feature prominently in the renewed campaign for further liberalization in the Kremlin's policy.

'Fat One' gives £2.5m to Australia

From Harry Debelius Madrid

"The Fat One" yesterday favoured a long-term Spanish emigrant to Australia. Señor José Nuñez Monturfo, to the tune of 475 million pesetas (nearly £2.5 million) as Spain's annual Christmas lottery, the biggest in the world, showered £389 million on lucky winners.

"The Fat One" is the Spaniard's favourite yuletide character. They call him "El Gordo", and he represents the number with the biggest payoff in the Christmas lottery. This time it was 3772.

Señor Nuñez Monturfo, aged 64, a tobacco farmer who lives in Myrtleford, Victoria, bought his lottery tickets last summer during the visit to relatives in his home town of Archidona, near Malaga.

Before going back to Australia, where according to friends he has lived for 20 years, he gave a small share of his lottery number to four nephews who own a bar in Archidona. The payoff for their share was 25 million pesetas (nearly £130,000). The many others "touched" by "The Fat One" won a total of £81.7 million.

Most of the second prize winnings went to employees of a refinery in Corunna, who shared the number 56,320. They will split between them seven billion pesetas (36.3 million).

Señor Antonio Cantos, a lottery official, emptying numbered balls into a drum in preparation for the world's largest draw.

Swaziland keeps Botha waiting in raid protest

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Mr R F "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, was kept waiting in an ante-room for 30 minutes yesterday after arriving in Mbabane, the Swaziland capital, for talks with Mr Sotha Dlamini, its Prime Minister.

Two-and-a-half hours later he left the Prime Minister's office. "You can write what you like," he told journalists. "I have no comment." The Prime Minister's office also refused to make any statement.

It was clear, though, that the time Mr Botha was kept waiting was meant to convey Swaziland's displeasure over the armed raids by units of the South African security force earlier this month in which two Swiss nationals and two blacks were abducted and two people killed.

At the time Mr Botha said that the Swiss were being held because of their suspected links with the African National Congress. But after protests by both Switzerland and Swaziland they were freed.

It was reported in South Africa at the weekend that the intelligence services had been duped into recommending a raid into Swaziland and that the Department of Foreign Affairs had advance knowledge of it, as did President Botha.

Meanwhile, advertisements placed in South African newspapers by the Bureau for Information purporting to set out the "true perspective" of the new state of emergency regulations affecting the media were yesterday attacked strongly by the English-language dailies.

The Pretoria News said: "We admire their cheek... We disagree totally that media reporting and comment are, as they claim, generating much of the revolutionary climate for upheaval. The blame for that lies fully on the Government's shoulders."

Karens flee from Burmese repression

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Thousands of Karen people in Burma are on the move towards the border with Thailand to escape a campaign of repression by Burmese Government forces, according to Western relief workers and Thai intelligence sources on the border.

More than 26,000 refugees from Burma are now in Thailand, 18,000 of them Karens and most of the others of the Mon grouping. These ethnic minorities have been in rebellion against Rangoon for more than 35 years.

Some refugees say they walked for up to three weeks from the Stuewgin area. Others from the Papun district, closer to Thailand say that 5,000 more people there are moving towards the border.

The refugees claim that they have been forced to flee by the brutal actions of Burmese soldiers who seized rice and other possessions, burned houses and rounded up people into compounds. Those suspected of helping the Karen guerrillas are threatened with execution.

Reports similar to these, which have been coming in with the refugees for two years, have been confirmed by Christian aid workers secretly helping the Karens, many of whom are themselves Christian, inside Burma. The Burmese Government says little about its war against the rebels.

Thai military officers on the border say that the Burmese Army has been conducting a drive during the past week against Mon Liberation Army guerrillas near the Three Pagodas Pass, a well-known border landmark, forcing 8,000 refugees into Thailand.

Burmese artillery and infantry have attacked the big market near the pass and surrounding villages but Thai border police say that the guerrillas fought them off with great determination. The Thai say that 15 Burmese soldiers and five guerrillas were killed.

Bangkok intelligence analysts say that Burmese soldiers are now establishing themselves in rebel districts they had previously ignored, including Tenasserim, in the far south, where 100,000 Karens fear they will also be harassed by the Army.

Well-informed Government officials and businessmen from the West say that during recent visits to Rangoon they have learned that

Swaziland keeps Botha waiting in raid protest

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Mr R F "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, was kept waiting in an ante-room for 30 minutes yesterday after arriving in Mbabane, the Swaziland capital, for talks with Mr Sotha Dlamini, its Prime Minister.

Two-and-a-half hours later he left the Prime Minister's office. "You can write what you like," he told journalists. "I have no comment." The Prime Minister's office also refused to make any statement.

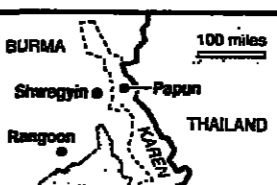
It was clear, though, that the time Mr Botha was kept waiting was meant to convey Swaziland's displeasure over the armed raids by units of the South African security force earlier this month in which two Swiss nationals and two blacks were abducted and two people killed.

At the time Mr Botha said that the Swiss were being held because of their suspected links with the African National Congress. But after protests by both Switzerland and Swaziland they were freed.

It was reported in South Africa at the weekend that the intelligence services had been duped into recommending a raid into Swaziland and that the Department of Foreign Affairs had advance knowledge of it, as did President Botha.

Meanwhile, advertisements placed in South African newspapers by the Bureau for Information purporting to set out the "true perspective" of the new state of emergency regulations affecting the media were yesterday attacked strongly by the English-language dailies.

The Pretoria News said: "We admire their cheek... We disagree totally that media reporting and comment are, as they claim, generating much of the revolutionary climate for upheaval. The blame for that lies fully on the Government's shoulders."



The Burmese Army was complaining that it had neither the manpower nor weapons to sustain a campaign against the rebels.

They also found indecision and inertia more marked than in the past in official circles because of the continuing uncertainty about Burma's political future. This stems from the frail health of the country's leader, General Ne Win, who has been in power for 25 years and is now aged 75, and the lack of an obvious successor.

According to these reports, some younger officials now speak more openly about Burma's need for foreign investment and expertise which has been rejected by General Ne Win. Diplomats in Rangoon say that is a sign of what may come when new leaders take over.

For the time being the Japanese, eager both in Government and in private industry to provide aid and investment, are making little progress towards overcoming Burmese isolationism.

Karachi waits for the spark that will set off new ethnic clashes

From Zahid Hussein, Karachi

After a week of violence which has left some 200 people dead, Karachi, the industrial heartland of Pakistan, now has a semblance of normality.

But the city, which has a population of seven million and has been a melting pot for immigrants from India, Bangladesh and Afghanistan as well as other regions of Pakistan, will never be the same again.

The dire predictions that Karachi could become another Beirut has acquired an ominous ring of truth with the current wave of violence.

Beneath the deceptive calm, the situation is more explosive than ever. A minor incident could spark off yet another round of bloody clashes.

Within a short span of 40 days Karachi has bled twice. More than 50 people were killed last month in clashes between the two main ethnic groups in the city, Pathans and Urdu-speaking Mohajirs (refugees from India who migrated to Pakistan after the partition of the subcontinent in 1947 and from Bangladesh after 1971).

The first ethnic riots broke out in Karachi in April 1985, following a traffic accident in which a girl student was killed, and soon turned into Pathan-Mohajir clashes because most drivers and users of the long-distance heavy lorries are Pathans.

The ethnic clashes between the two communities have simply kept on recurring. Even a minor traffic accident would plunge the city into violence.

The current wave of violence, the worst in the country's history, started after an army clean-up operation in Sohrab Goth, a predominantly Pathan and Afghan refugee settlement, on December 12.

There has been increasing public pressure to free the area of drug smugglers and arms dealers. Spats on the part of the administration and the alleged patronage of the drug traffickers by some influential persons in the Government has exacerbated the situation.

The clean-up operation was finally undertaken with the support of 3,000 army troops and police.

Strangely, very few drugs and arms were recovered during the six-day operation. Some of the leaders are reported to have been tipped off a day earlier about the operation and are said to have

managed to remove their stocks of narcotics and arms to safer places.

According to the Karachi English-language daily *Dawn*, about 20 truckloads of weapons and a huge quantity of heroin were removed from Sohrab Goth during the night of December 11-12 and secretly taken to various parts of the city.

On the first day of the operation, on December 12, the law enforcement agencies could find only a few men in a population of more than 50,000.

The plans for the clean-up operation had been discussed at a secret meeting in which

Beneath the deceptive calm, the situation is more explosive than ever. A minor incident could spark off yet another round of bloody clashes

senior political, police and military officials participated. The administration has no explanation as to how the secret was leaked to the drug traffickers. The media has made many allegations of corruption and protection of drugs dealers among top executives of the provincial administration.

While the operation was in progress, on December 14, some 200 Pathans, alleged to have the backing of the drug dealers, armed with Kalashnikovs and other sophisticated firearms, attacked Aligari colony in the Orangi Town area, a predominantly Urdu-speaking Bilhari area which was the scene of the worst clashes last month. Most of the people who took part in the killing were said to be from the Sohrab Goth area. The carnage began at about 9 am and continued for six hours with the administration doing nothing to stop it.

According to eyewitnesses, people, including women and children, were brutally killed while a small contingent of police watched. Scores of people were burnt to death.

According to a cautious estimate, more than 70 people died, and the army came in when it had finished. The killing triggered ethnic clashes in other parts of the city.

It is still not clear why the Government chose this time to start the clean-up operation

while tension had still not subsided following last month's clashes.

The incompetence and ineptitude of the administration was evident during the week of rioting. There were not enough army troops deployed to check the riots, and in many places people repeatedly demanded police protection from gangs of killers, but without success.

Although the rioting, which has been taking place in Karachi for a year and a half, is often characterized as ethnic conflicts, an analysis of the situation indicates that the causes are much deeper.

There are many socio-economic and political factors which have given rise to the present tension and ethnic division. The hostility between the Pathans and the Mohajirs is not based on ethnic factors alone.

As the largest industrial and financial centre and a port city, Karachi has been attracting people from all over the country. Because of this its population has risen from 100,000 in 1947 to seven million in 1986.

The Urdu-speaking Mohajirs, who comprise 45 per cent of the city's population, form the majority. But the Pathans from the North-Western Frontier, with a population of more than 1,500,000, also form a major ethnic group.

The increasing strain on the infrastructure and on the limited jobs market has caused tension between the different ethnic groups to rise. The Mohajirs and the local Sindhis particularly feel that outsiders are taking the jobs and resources of the city.

Since 1979 two significant new developments have taken place in Karachi.

One is the growth of a powerful drugs mafia, which is also involved in the transport industry. The other is the upsurge of spontaneous street protests against drug dealers and bus operations in both of which Pathans are involved. This has caused such protests to often take an ethnic colour.

The recent rise of Mohajir nationalism has further led to polarization on the ethnic bases.

The 1985 general election, in which the votes were cast on ethnic bases rather than political programmes, has also increased this trend. The influx of arms through Afghan refugees has also created a volatile situation.



Otto Heidemann, aged 74, who was jailed for 10 years yesterday for killing a fellow prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp in 1941, being carried on a stretcher into the Moabit courtroom in West Berlin yesterday.

Heidemann had been entrusted by SS guards at the Mauthausen concentration camp with overseeing fellow inmates. (Reuter reports from West Berlin). The court found him guilty of having led Mr Jozef Wojdanowski, aged 45, away from a work-party at a quarry belonging

to the camp in January 1941 and beating and kicking him to death behind a pile of rubble. Heidemann denied the charges.

The court decided that prisoner-overseers at Mauthausen had been told by SS guards to kill inmates who could no longer work. But Heidemann's action in murdering Mr Wojdanowski, one of more than 100 prisoners under his control, must be considered a crime even in the conditions of the Nazi period, Judge Hans Praefter ruled.

Rare army presence in Goa riots

Bombay (Reuter) - The Indian Army staged a show of strength in Goa yesterday, while police reinforcements poured into the territory as the death toll in violence sweeping the popular seaside resort rose to six.

Police said that 1,500 reinforcements were flown in by the central Government and neighbouring Gujarat state to help the 2,000-strong local police. More were expected from the states of Karnataka and Maharashtra.

The Army, alerted after a pitched battle between rival supporters of the Konkani and Marathi languages on Sunday night, marched through Madagao, an important commercial centre.

It was the first time the Indian Army had been called out in Goa since 1961, when it marched in to take over from the Portuguese.

Police in Panjim, the capital, said that thousands of foreign tourists who had planned to spend Christmas in the former Portuguese enclave were crowding the airport and railway stations to leave.

There were no immediate reports of injuries to any of the estimated 70,000 foreign and Indian tourists. But many visitors were feared stranded in towns cut off by barricades set up by militant supporters of the local Konkani language who are campaigning for immediate statehood for Goa with Konkani as its official language.

Konkani is spoken mainly by native Goa Christians and Hindus living along the coast, while Marathi is spoken in the hinterland and by Hindu immigrants.

Fights in House as amnesty granted to Uruguay soldiers

From Eduardo Cae, Buenos Aires

In an emotionally-charged session, interrupted by fist fights among the legislators, the Uruguayan Congress has approved a controversial amnesty for military and police officers accused of human rights violations during the former military dictatorship.

The action by Congress has brought a sudden and unexpected end to four months of political crisis in Uruguay and illustrated the power the military continues to wield over the 22-month-old civilian Government of President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

The Chamber of Deputies on Sunday gave final approval to the Bill, which became law immediately, just two hours before an army lieutenant-colonel had been scheduled to appear before a civilian court investigating charges of human rights violations.

The military had let it be known last week that its officers would categorically refuse to appear before the tribunal, thereby seriously and perhaps irrevocably, challenging the authority of the country's fragile civilian institutions.

The amnesty measure was introduced by Senator Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, the leader of the opposition National Party, who had refused to support a similar measure introduced by President Sanguinetti last August. Senator Ferreira changed his mind after meeting the Army commander, General Hugo Medina, who made clear that the military would not back down.

The National Party deputy, Senator Gonzalo Aguirre, in a reference to the pressure brought to bear by the mili-

American arrested in Tokyo drive on fingerprint rebels

From David Watts, Tokyo

Tokyo police have arrested an American activist in a new drive against foreigners who refuse to give their fingerprints.

The authorities had been watching Mr Robert Ricketts for two months and detained him as he left a translation agency where he works.

His arrest is an important move in the Government's campaign to break the back of the anti-fingerprint campaign because Mr Ricketts has acted as a co-ordinator for the disparate groups of Koreans, Asian-Americans, religious and citizens' groups who oppose the system whereby all resident foreigners, including Koreans who were born in Japan, must be fingerprinted when applying for their alien registration cards.

After Mr Ricketts's arrest he was forcibly fingerprinted, but the authorities were unable to get prints of all his fingers. He has been refusing to give his prints since 1985, along with 1,375 other foreigners, mostly Koreans.

In a newspaper interview a few weeks before his arrest he accused the authorities of treating him as though he were a "terrorist" when all of his actions were in the open. Mr Ricketts faces a fine of up to 200,000 yen (£837) or a prison term.

The activists have been helped by the 700 local authorities in Japan who have been refusing to co-operate with police requests for files on fingerprint refusers. A three-month grace period is allowed for re-registration once the card runs out at the end of its five-year validity.

However, due to a tough new stance by the Ministry of Justice, police have recently been putting additional pressure on local authorities to give up the files while at the same time proposing softer regulations in response to diplomatic pressure from South Korea.

Under the proposals, which have not yet become law, foreigners would be fingerprinted only once, on arrival, and the ink used would be washable rather than the messy, semi-permanent type used at present.

The fingerprint refusers say that being fingerprinted is a violation of human rights and of the constitution because it provides for unequal treatment under the law of Japanese and Koreans, both of whom have been born in the same country.

The fingerprint refusers say that being fingerprinted is a violation of human rights and of the constitution because it provides for unequal treatment under the law of Japanese and Koreans, both of whom have been born in the same country.

Mr Shunji Kobayashi, who is in charge of the immigration department of the Ministry of Justice, says that the system was introduced in the late 1950s to combat the flow of illegal immigrants from Korea.

At a recent press briefing he at first denied that such fingerprints were ever used in criminal cases, but later admitted that they might be used as a means of identifying a foreigner in an incident unrelated to a breach of immigration law.

"Legally speaking it's only for Koreans," Mr Kobayashi said. "It will suffice if we take fingerprints only from Koreans living in the country. But I don't think it's practicable. I don't think it's rational and I don't think it's proper."

Shops hit in German arson wave

Bonn - A wave of arson attacks on shops in Hamburg continued yesterday for the second successive day, with early-morning fires on two floors of a city department store (John England writes).

The store's sprinkler system soon extinguished the fires, but the water caused severe damage to goods. Firemen and police helped store owners to search a total of 31 premises for small incendiary devices with acid time-fuses.

The arson attacks began on Sunday, following rioting on Saturday night during a demonstration against the police clearance of houses occupied by squatters. Nearly 100 policemen and 31 demonstrators were injured.

One-way Poles

Munich (Reuter) - Twenty Polish tourists failed to rejoin their coach before it left for Czechoslovakia on its way home. Police say it is not clear if the 15 men and five women, missing after a weekend in Bavaria, were staying to visit relatives or would seek asylum in Germany.

Cash take

Copenhagen (AP) - Three armed men robbed a Copenhagen department store during the Christmas shopping rush and made off with 5 million kroner (£470,000) cash in a blue van.

Suspects free

Paris - Six people arrested in connection with the discovery of an arms cache on the outskirts of Paris last Thursday were released without having been charged.

Sudan aid

Khartoum (AP) - International relief agencies are giving Sudan \$100 million a year in aid and providing jobs for more than 6,000 Sudanese. Mr Kamil Shawki, Sudanese commissioner for relief and rehabilitation, said.

Bus tragedy

Ankara (Reuter) - Seventeen people were killed and 36 injured when a bus carrying wedding guests crashed into a stream near Istanbul, the third major bus accident in Turkey in eight weeks.

Buon giorno

Rome (Reuter) - Breakfast television was launched in Italy with a 4½-hour programme of news, music, features and interviews.

Sentry hurt

Ajaccio (Reuter) - A police sentry was slightly injured when a bomb was thrown at a Corsican barracks on Sunday night, police reported.

Taking off

Peking (AP) - China United, a new Chinese airline expected to help to break the state airline monopoly, will begin service on January 1.

Vital omission

Brussels (Reuter) - Forgers of authentic-looking 500-franc notes forgot to include the signature of Belgium's national bank.

Junejo names 16 of new Cabinet

From Hasan Akhtar Islamabad

Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, yesterday took back 16 of his former ministers and ministers of state while reconstituting his Cabinet. He had asked on Saturday for the resignation of the entire group of about 40 members.

President Zia of Pakistan yesterday took the formal oath from 12 ministers and four ministers of state. More ministers are expected to be included within the next week.

Mr Junejo had accepted the resignation of his entire cabinet in order to drop those reportedly either corrupt or working secretly to weaken his position in the ruling party.

Mr Junejo comes from Sind, while most MPs and the ruling Pakistan Muslim League



Mr Junejo: Aiming for a Cabinet free of taint.

Some Party belong to the Punjab. Some ministers readmitted to the Cabinet have had their portfolios changed, while others have returned to their previous responsibilities. The Ministers and Min-

isters of State appointed yesterday are: Foreign Affairs Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Interior Mr Aslam Khan Khattak, Education Mr Naseem Ahmad Aheer, Finance and Economic Affairs Mr Yasin Khan Wattoo, Industries Mr Shujaat Hussain, Justice Mr Wasim Sajjad, Information Kazi Abdul Majid Abid, Food and Agriculture Mr Mohammad Ibrahim Baluch, Housing Haji Hanif Tayyeb, Local Government Mr Anwar Aziz Chaudhary, States and Frontier Regions Mr Qasim Shah, Without Portfolio Mr Iqbal Ahmad Khan.

The Ministers of State are: Foreign Affairs Mr Zain Noorani, Health Mr Ghulam Mohammad Mehr, Special Education Begum Afzar Kizilbash, Railways Mr Nisar Mohammad Khan.

Wildlife laws threaten Kenyan tourist boom

From A Correspondent, Nairobi

The recent expulsion at gunpoint of a party of foreign tourists from a Kenyan game sanctuary has exposed a dilemma facing Kenya's booming tourist industry.

Now that more than 600,000 tourists are visiting the game reserves and marine parks each year the Government has become alarmed at the detrimental effect of these large numbers on the ecology of some wildlife areas.

The Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife has recently sent orders to its game wardens to be more rigorous in enforcing regulations in parks, especially that making it illegal for tourist vehicles to be driven off designated roads into grassland and bush country in search of lions, leopards and other wild animals.

It is now also an offence to harass any animal.

According to Mr Brendan Burke, a British tourist in the group expelled last week from Amboseli National Park at the foot of Mt Kilimanjaro, they were travelling in two minibuses driven by Kenyans when they were stopped by a game warden and ordered out of the park without any explanation.

Mr Afayo Baraza, the game warden, was annoyed, it seems, because the tourists had left the road and were

photographing lions in the bush against the background of Mt Kilimanjaro. This, he said later, was harassing the lions.

The incident is the latest in a growing number since the issue of the "get tough" directive, which is causing tension between tour operators and drivers anxious to please their clients and the authorities who are under heavy pressure from conservationists to limit the number of visitors allowed into the reserves.

Mr Baraza said that about 100 tourist buses enter Amboseli each day, and those driving through the bush country are damaging delicate vegetation crucial to the animals' survival.

As Amboseli is only a few hours' drive from Nairobi it has become probably the most accessible - and least expensive - animal sanctuary in Africa in which visitors can see the "big five" - lion, leopard, rhino, elephant and buffalo - in the same day.

In the leisurely old-time safaris it could take a couple of weeks. A Ministry of Tourism official agreed that the mass influx of tourists is threatening to turn this world-famous game sanctuary into "just another zoo".

Lebanese learning that it is time to pay the bill

From Robert Fisk Middle East Correspondent

Ayesha is not a demonstrative woman. She is large and buxom and washes the floor of my flat by wringing a wet cloth round her foot and scraping it backwards and forwards across the tiles. Most days when she comes to clean my home, she just sighs when I ask about her family.

But now she arrives in consternation and anger, holding out her right wrist. "I sold my last bracelet yesterday," she says. "It was to pay for the children's school." She holds out her left wrist, which is equally bare. "This morning, I have sold my watch. What can I do? I have nothing more to sell."

Up a side street, Farid apologises for the higher price he charges for my *manouche* - the soft, hot thyme sandwich the Lebanese eat for breakfast. "How can we go on?" he asks, with that special suggestion of guilt that is nowadays conveyed to foreigners. "I spent all our money on Najla's hospital treatment."

Hospital? I had been in Cairo for two weeks. Had his wife been ill? "You didn't hear about our shell," he says possessively, and jerks his thumb at the broken window near the counter, its glass still hanging in cruel shards from the frame. Outside his shop the fine old tree that had shaded the

porch of his house was gone. A blackened 6 ft stump was all that remained.

"Najla was standing here at the counter when the shell hit the tree and the glass was blown into her stomach. She was in the hospital for a week and I used all my savings on her treatment. We have nothing left." He wrapped the *manouche* in greaseproof paper and apologised again.

It is as if the Lebanese have just begun to understand their collective sickness, the bill for which they must at last pay themselves. Muslims and Christians blame each other for their economic distress, but some blame foreigners -

They will kidnap any man with blue eyes . . . rash enough to cross their path

among them those who see foreigners as a quick source of income. They will kidnap any man with blue eyes or Western appearance rash enough to cross their path, in the hope that they can sell him back to his family or to those darker figures who need a hostage to kill.

Even Hamra Street, with its French fashion shops and overpriced book stores, has become a tribulation for Westerners. One morning I was walking to my bank in the Piccadilly

Centre, watching the traffic. Just by a fruitstall, I noticed a blue Volvo kerb graving beside me. It had no registration plates and there were three men inside, two in the front and one in the rear, all with beards. The man in the back wore a camouflage jacket and I could just make out the tip of a rifle.

Should I run to the fruitstall, where a bald, chubby man is serving a drink made from carrots beneath a sign proclaiming him "The King of Juice"? The three men are staring.

"Marhaba," (Hi there), I say. The three bearded faces break into smiles. "Ahalan," they chorus back in greeting. Were they really being just friendly?

Carrying money around Beirut has always been dangerous, which is why the moneychangers have armed bodyguards. Today, I find they also have two-way radios to talk to the local banks because the Lebanese pound is collapsing so fast that the antiquated phone system can't keep pace with the exchange rates.

In the past I carried currency in a brown envelope inside a newspaper. Now I find the customers in my bank holding plastic shopping bags, scooping the money from the cash desk in thousands of blue notes. The avalanche tells its own story, not least for a Christian neighbour of mine

who, for a special reason, had already been to collect her savings in notes of 250 Lebanese pounds.

She came back from holiday, she says, to find gunmen in her house. "Squatters, the worst kind of people - their guns were propped against my door when I arrived."

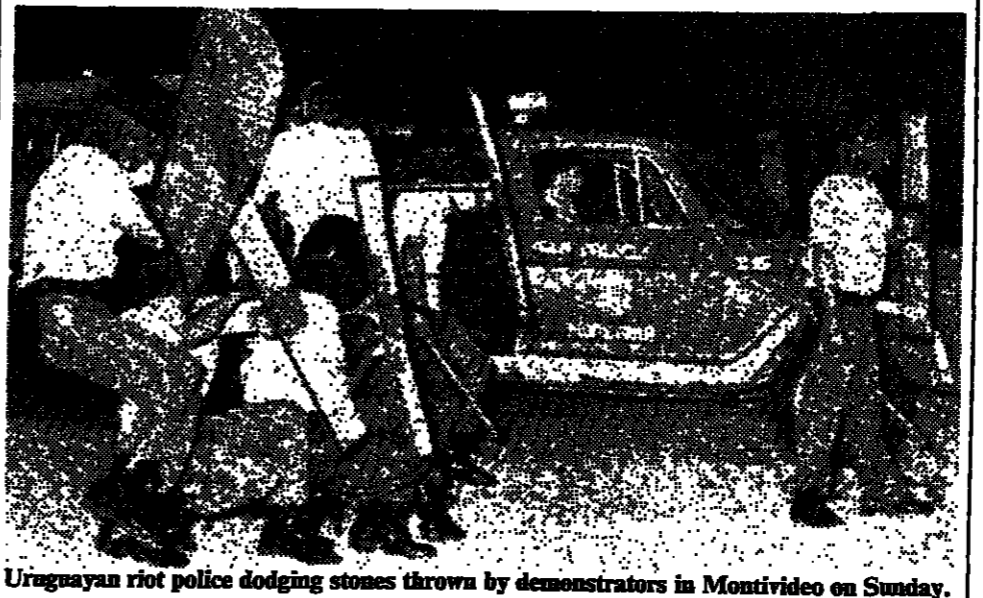
Her story is truly awful because it is typically unjust.

Customers in my bank . . . scooping money in thousands of blue notes

Anywhere else, you would call the police. But this is Beirut. She sat down with the Muslim gunmen and made a deal. She would pay them to leave the house. The figure was in tens of thousands of Lebanese pounds, but the militiamen said there was just one small condition - that they take the contents of the house with them.

My neighbour had no option but to agree, and therefore watched helplessly as the gunmen trooped from her home carrying her furniture, her television, her cutlery, even her daughter's wedding presents. She tried to live there in an empty house, but now she is leaving too, taking bags full of worthless notes with her.

Some are less fortunate. At home, my phone rings. A



Uruguayan riot police dodging stones thrown by demonstrators in Montevideo on Sunday.

Handwritten Arabic text in a box at the bottom right corner of the page.

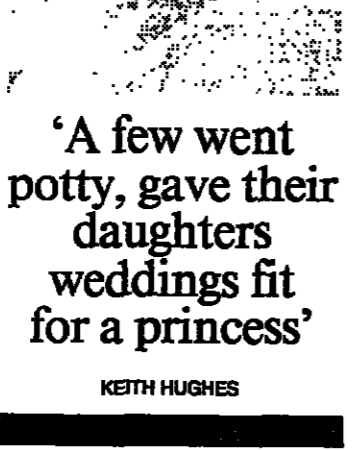
Last gasp of the big spenders

A year ago King Coal was deposited in many parts of the country as the pit closure programme got under way. But what was happening to the miners? Brian James went to a town where huge redundancy payments have brought bizarre consequences — and a bonanza of misery — for the newly-rich

The coal miners of Garw knew for certain that their lives were about to be changed on the day they stepped, blinking, from the pitcage to be surrounded by men with briefcases who pursued them into the showers, waving contracts for life insurance and unit trusts.

pers. But like the "healthy" red cheeks of a man dying from lung disease, such signs mislead. The deluge of money into the Garw had effects that were banal and bizarre; and there are deep and corrosive problems not yet even faced.

Keith Hughes, wears several hats, running his own estate agency, managing a building society, and being secretary of the valley chamber of commerce. It was he who described the scene at the pithead bathers.



'A few went potty, gave their daughters weddings fit for a princess'

KEITH HUGHES

That was a year ago and almost every day since then the Welshmen have had more examples of what it means to come into money. They stand in the miners' welfare and talk about managed trusts; they go home to be nagged by their wives about micro-waves, fitted kitchens and double glazing.

Men up to the age of 49 got £2,000 for every year of pit service; men aged 50 and over got a lump sum and a part pension. The Government has spent £1 billion on the scheme, and for the 200 men of the Garw valley villages, individual payments of £35,000 were not unique, and around £20,000 could be counted an average. So roughly £4 million in spendable income suddenly flowed into a valley where, during the strike a year before, food parcels and soup kitchens had kept the children fed.

But if the thrust was cruel, the miners threw themselves on to the sword, choosing not to linger on in the face of British Coal's long-term intentions. By shutting their mine last Christmas they qualified for enhanced redundancy terms.

Keith Hughes, who runs the Blaeuargarw Hotel, is a former miner himself. He says that the money was not just a windfall but a lifeline for many who had lost their jobs and homes.

But like the "healthy" red cheeks of a man dying from lung disease, such signs mislead. The deluge of money into the Garw had effects that were banal and bizarre; and there are deep and corrosive problems not yet even faced.



Mine host: Trevor Stoneham (standing, centre) was a miner himself — now he runs the Blaeuargarw Hotel, meeting place for the community

able banks had cars covered with banners parked across the gates. "That was the start of it. Blokes could see the world was after their money. But the social pressures have been worse. Chaps were afraid to go home because of the nagging; it was all about keeping up with the Joneses... and the Morgans... and the Griffiths. A lot of money went quickly on enjoying themselves. This little office alone put out £2,000 in travellers' cheques for trips to Spain and Majorca in one week. And why not?

Another Garw businessman sees the crisis coming within weeks, not years. "By February, for most of them, the dole money ends. Then it is on to supplementary benefit. They hope! They've got the idea that so long as they have a penny less than the £3,000 upper limit they can claim benefit. That's why they've been spending their capital. They would not be told that the Inspector can chuck 'em out of his office when he hears how they have spent their money... new cars and all that."

Not a day too soon, according to Trevor Stoneham, the ex-miner who runs the Blaeuargarw Hotel, social centre of this grey huddle of houses. "Disillusion has already set in. A year ago they were flush with money. Men who'd never handled more than a £300 Christmas bonus now had £30,000 to play with, so it was doubles instead of punts. Bound to be. And the buying — some of the talk in here would turn you grey... Taffy has a new car, next day Dai gets one better. "You can do that for a bit if you are going to get another job.

Practically none of them has. There's about 40 go by bus to other pits... some have to leave at 4am. Other get the bus at 11am and don't get back until 11 at night. That's no life. Of my 150 regulars who worked the Garw, I don't suppose more than 10 have got jobs down in the town, Bridgend. "In two or three years, the way some of them are going, the money will be gone. What then?"

ist than Maggie. They have forgotten how other people pitched in and helped them in the strike. They are so wrapped up in interest rates, percentages, finding out where they can drive to in their cars to buy at a discount, they have forgotten the shopkeepers up here who helped feed their kids on credit. There's money awash up here, but it's not all lovely, boyo."

Outside the Welsh ex-serviceman's club a man called Gwyn speaks: "This used to be a man's village. Now the women

get bloody taken over. Some of us get in here drinking, but we don't have 100 much. Still a bit of pride left. It's having nothing to do that's hard. These hands, see, not bloody made for knitting."

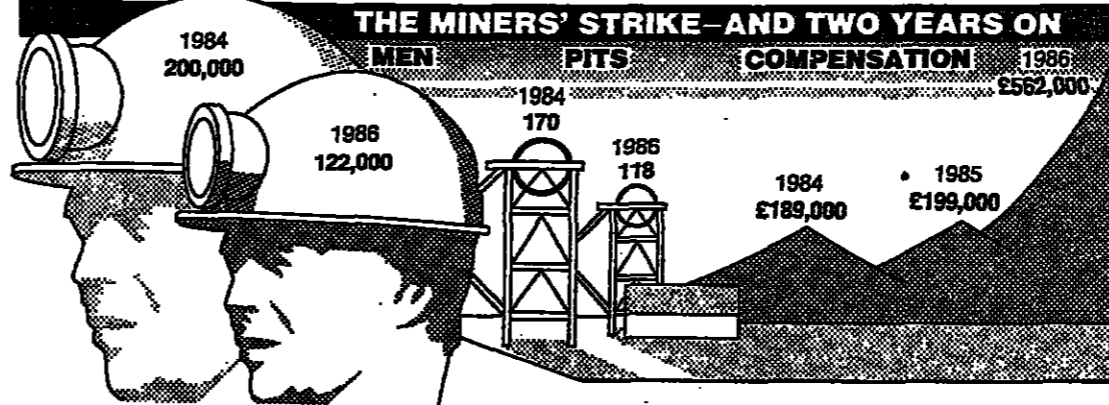
There is even deeper bitterness in the home of Berwyn Howell, a tough 61-year-old who, as Lodge secretary of the NUM, held the miners together during the strike (Garw is proud of the fact that it had only one rebel against the cause — and he was English). "Sure there's been daft things happening in Garw," he says. "Some smart salesman sold a whole lot of brand new Metro cars in one street, people was running around trying to find whose cars was which. But you have to expect daft things when you do a thing like this to a community — people's minds are in a turmoil."

"The men of Garw didn't sell their jobs, they were bribed and blackmailed into it. The way it works, if they had kept their pit on after January 1 this year, all the months they were on strike would have counted in calculating their

benefits. But that's the past, and what's eating away at this village is that they don't see a future. "What I really worry about is the kids. Us old 'uns can be the idle rich, walk the hills we used to dig under. But the thing is that they haven't taken a new kid on in our mine since 1981. Five years without a single job created. We have 18 to 22 year-olds never done a hitch of work. Our police sergeant used to boast he could mind this place with one OAP to help him. Well, there are still more mugs than nuggers in the valley, but things are turning... old people down the lane had their homes cracked open. "I am not against half our houses being sold to people in Bridgend — even though it make a pit village part of the bloody commuter belt. We'll give people a welcome, so long as they don't expect us to wait on their tables. "Nor am I against progress. When I was chairman of the council I had an aerial survey of the valley, to show where land was ready for development. Country park, nature trails, holiday flats. Yes, OK. But what this place, full of conscientious, skilful men, needs is a factory. What it needs is bloody work." As we spoke there came a knock on the door. Berwyn returned. "Man selling carpets door to door. That's what it is, has come to for lots of pitmen."

Or running fish and chip vans around the estates of Glamorgan's industrial plain. Or setting up as builders. Or taxi drivers. Quite a few of Garw's redundant have sunk money into starting their own business. Many have failed. Among those still fighting to succeed is Ray Bennett, who opened a tyre workshop in nearby Brynmynon. "Had a few months sitting about on £48 a week dole, watching my payment for 17 years of my life slipping away. Thought the only thing worth investing in was myself. I am working all hours, but with £5,000 in stocks and a lot more in tools, if this goes I am in trouble. Thank goodness my wife backs me — not like some who couldn't see a use for the money beyond two more weeks in Benidorm and a fresh perm."

Next door, three more of Garw ex-pitmen have combined to launch an auto-electrical business. "We had all had enough," Tony Keyes says. "That strike finished us. If it wasn't the bosses telling you what to do it was the union. We are all tradesmen, certain we could sell our skills. Hard at first. We have sunk a lot into this, and there were days when we looked at each other and wondered. But it's picking up... it is going to work. Being your own boss is great."



Church services and snowflakes evoke Christmas — but how real is the image?

A mass of detail

Tonight under the blaze of 49 lights imported by BBC Television, Clifton Cathedral in Bristol will ring to many and varied sounds — of an organ voluntary by Wiene, of carols, of readings from Isaiah, Titus and Luke, of prayers. All under the eyes of four cameras, red-eyed and all-seeing. Nearly a year of preparation will be reaching a climax. And the viewing figures? Zero.

But fear not for a waste of the licence money. Tonight is merely a rehearsal for what will, tomorrow night, attract the year's biggest television audience for a religious event — between three and four million people tuned in to midnight mass.

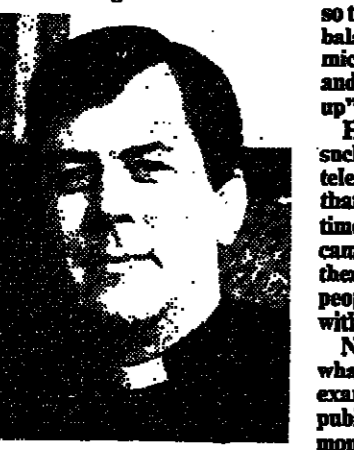
It will have a special significance — or rather a small, separate significance — for the Rt Rev Monsignor Crispian Hollis, effectively the Bishop of Clifton's deputy, for tomorrow night a wheel turns full circle: between 1977 and 1981, Hollis was Roman Catholic assistant to the head of religious broadcasting at the BBC and

The midnight mass on television will be a spectacle planned for nearly a year

says, "and that is how it must be. We are not required to shape the service for television and at Clifton we have the great good fortune of size, which means there is no television-imposed restriction on numbers."

But television has to be accommodated, in the physical and other senses. The only light shining tomorrow night not to have been installed by the BBC will be that over the crib; the front row of seats has been moved back three feet so that a camera can track in to cover communion; the number of seats has been carefully worked out in advance (it is 1,108); and one aisle is blocked off by a camera gantry.

The congregation will have to be in *in situ* by 10.30pm, an hour before the transmission, so that the BBC engineers can balance the sound from four microphones placed overhead and to give time for "the warm up".



Mgr Hollis: a special night

he produced the radio end of the 1981 midnight mass — just before he joined Clifton. Perhaps the biggest difficulty in staging this kind of event — it alternates between the Anglicans and the Catholics — is the risk that it can become a programme rather than a service, a religious *Match of the Day*. Hollis gave over the front page of his Christmas diocesan newsletter to the subject, stressing that this is a service, not a television show. "We do our own thing", he

Peter Barnard

Just a snowball's chance



What are the odds on our having a real Dickensian Christmas, 1986?

White Christmases are few and far between. In the past 50 years the London area can boast of only three occasions which can be regarded as matching the traditional image. In 1981 the remnants of an earlier snowstorm hung on until Christmas Day, while in 1957 a brief cold spell led to snow over the holidays. But the only time the snow lay several days before Christmas and lasted right through Boxing Day was in 1938.

If we relax the requirements, then we find that snow on Boxing Day is more common, particularly during the past 25 years. Even so, this falls well short of what we have been brought up to expect, which raises the question as to whether the whole image of a snowy December 25 is a fabrication.

The fact that the publication of these chapters — late in December 1856, as part of a serial — coincided with one of the greatest snowstorms of the 19th century probably reinforced the image with both the writer and his readership. With the publication of *A Christmas Carol* in December 1843, the die was cast.

While the memories of the Frost Fairs on the Thames and the Dutch and Flemish winter landscapes have helped to reinforce the popular image, it was the Dickensian model that did most to establish the modern view of Christmas. The more frequent cold spells of the last 10 winters could be a sign that we will be having more white Christmases. But this is hard to reconcile with the growing evidence that the global climate is warming. So for the moment the safest assumption is that it is simply a product of the natural variability of our climate.

W.J. Burroughs

Weather note: The outlook is for milder, cloudy weather. Perhaps preceded by sleet or snow. Details, page 16

The hi-tech brain train

Getting there is irrelevant at one Swedish company, whose workforce thinks en route

If a novel idea thought up by the Swedes finds an echo here, British Rail can stop worrying quite so much about getting there. The train standing so frustratingly 300 yards short of platform five could be full of computing commuters too busy with the work to worry about the wait. For high-speed read hi-tech.

These days, the minute they step aboard in Stockholm, a select few Swedish commuters — who work for ASEA, the nuclear and electrical multinational based at Västerås, 110 kilometres from the capital — start work at push desks in front of computer terminals. The train, adapted at a cost of £400,000, is equipped with desks, ergonomically-designed furniture, computers, and dial-anywhere telephones.

At one desk sits Dusan Babala, a 49-year-old nuclear physicist. He is working on a system that aims to make nuclear reactors "ultimately safe". Sheets of paper dotted with complex equations litter his desk.

He moved to Stockholm from Västerås in 1972, he says. "My wife works there. Before I travelled sometimes by car, sometimes by train. It was a total of two hours, 40 minutes wasted each day. Sometimes I would even have to stay at Västerås all week."



On-line: Dan Tammenberg of ASEA makes his connection

given that the company makes locomotives and rolling stock, it was good PR, apart from the practical benefits. Birgitta Benthe, 38, who works as a consultant to ASEA, finds the train has done wonders for her family life. She hates commuting so much that she previously spent most of the week in a company flat in Västerås, leaving her husband Morgan, 40, to look after their two children back home in Stockholm. "He's extremely happy about this development," she says.

The mobile office is run by a staff of four girls, working in two shifts, operating the switchboard, cleaning the desks and fitted carpets, brewing coffee and tea and making sure things run smoothly. So far around 20 regular commuters use the office/train, which makes the return journey six times a day. Tickets cost £20 return, but ASEA pays a third and the rest is tax deductible.

Christopher Mosey
© Times Newspapers Ltd 1986

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1138. Includes a crossword grid and a list of clues for across and down words.

FASHION by Suzy Menkes

Finding the guilty party

Gold and glitter is the combination for Christmas parties, but be subtle and avoid the strident

Gold is the colour and glitter is the message for party dressing. Cosmetics and clothes both have a built-in sparkle...

For party hair there are flat satin clip bows, chic in black and gold striped satin (£7.50). Round the waist of a black dress go gilded leather gloves (£24.95)...

A striking animal print in lurex on chiffon brings two fashion trends together in a tunic top (£29.99) from Miss Selfridge. This store's glitzy party clothes include a black taffeta fishtail dress with gold panels...



Putting on the glitz. Make yourself the Christmas look with net, brocade and tulle, modelled on a David Fielden tutu. Net in black, white and 18 vibrant colours...

satin gloves by Cornelia James £11.99 both from major department stores. Glitter basket of flowers earrings and crystal bracelet from Monty Don 58 Beauchamp Place SW3

Yule legs wrapped up in holly

Forget fishnet and seams; holiday stocking are sporting leaves, lacy roses and gold peacocks

The holly and the ivy, sequins and stars are all playing supporting roles in this year's fashion pantomime. Festively patterned legs are dressed up in tights and stockings that put seams and fishnets in the shade...

Mary Quant has painted snowy white Christmas roses in delicate, lacy patterns on to thick white tights, and The Cloth sticks to abstract designs with haunting black and white faces. For sheer festive glamour Pierre Montoux hosiery sports gold fountains, silver lurex rosettes sewn at the ankles or sparkling diamanté studs all the way up.

Adorning Bruce Oldfield's hosiery designs for the festive season is a discreet sparkling butterfly just above the right knee. Tiers, ruffles, puffballs and pleats all appear on dresses and skirts that end just below or above the knee leaving plenty of scope for the subtlest motif at the ankle or Christmas trees on legs.



Abstract black faces drawn on white tights, £3.25 designed by The Cloth for Aristoc; from Fenwick's, New Bond Street, W1 and leading stores. Sheer black stockings with a rash of odd sized spots and circles, £18 by Pierre Montoux; from Browns, 27 South Molton Street, W1.

COUNTRY CASUALS SALE. A WINTER OUTFIT FROM £58. For example this jacket £79 now at half price £39. This skirt £39 now at half price £19. SALE STARTS SATURDAY DEC 27th. At your local Country Casuals Shop See local Newspapers for Shop-in-Shop Sale Dates

PEOPLE

Matching Zandra

Holding court at the Grosvenor House Hotel last week was Zandra Rhodes, her shocking pink hair almost colour matched to the lobster soufflé. A week of fashion shows and festivities peaked on Friday under a Christmas tree elegantly decorated with white doves.

is talking about a Rhodes wardrobe for her new evening chat show. Guests at the glamorous lunch, at Toner Restaurant of the Year Ninety Park Lane, applauded the new daywear collection, and especially the fantastic £500 denim jackets customized in a patchwork of Zandra's fabrics, and inspired originally by the Blitz exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum.



Under the spreading tree: Zandra Rhodes in shocking pink

Benetton's Russian drive

The latest fashion company to embrace the big Bear is Benetton, who are hoping to take their colourful knits and ever-expanding empire to the Soviet Union early next year. Luciano Benetton, who runs the all-Italian family business with his brothers Gilberto and Carlo and designer sister Giuliana, has already penetrated the Iron and the Bamboo curtains.

Model editor?

Just as fashion doyenne Grace Coddington, winner of a 1960s Vogue model contest, leaves the Bible of Style to work for Calvin Klein in New York, I hear news of a model new recruit. Catherine Dyer (right), rangy wife of super-snapper David Bailey, is to give up her career in front of the camera to train as a Fashion Editor on Vogue.



Catherine, the subject of a profile of her life and times with thrice-married Bailey in January's Vogue, is now 25 - a ripe old age for a model, however classically beautiful. But Catherine still reveals a good deal of herself in a transparent

voile Calliano blouse in Vogue's Bailey photograph. Will Bailey's ex, model Marie Helvin, who is author of a do-it-yourself style guide, join Catherine on her glossy new perch?

THE TIMES DIARY

Scientifically speaking

Margaret Thatcher, not famous for her love of dissidents within her own party, is eager to further her acquaintance with the Soviet physicist and human rights campaigner Yuri Orlov.

No bells prize

The West Germans have introduced what must be the last word in literary anti-awards - the £10,000 Karl Kraus Prize for the worst user of language.

Post pique

Staff on a trade journal were flattered to get a Christmas card from Greville Janner, MP for Leicester West.

Most popular requests on Louisiana State Penitentiary's prisoner-run radio station - Elvis Presley's Jailhouse Rock and Sam Cooke's Chain Gang.

Sighs

Confused by what size dress to buy my loved one for Christmas, I received unexpected help from an assistant at the Richmond branch of Hobbs, the boutique chain.

BARRY FANTONI

TURF AGGRIEVANT



"Me? I've backed Inland Revenue at 5-2 on."

Eyelid unbatted

As Mike Gatting's men do battle Down Under, Sierra Leone breathlessly awaits the arrival of an England XI for a tour which, officially, will include a Test match and a series of one-day internationals.

Fiver fever

Legal eagle Michael Joseph continues his battles with the profession. After infuriating fellow solicitors with his best-selling The Conveyancing Fraud, he now plans a further play: paying his £255 Law Society sub in £5 notes stamped with the words "Lawyers Can Seriously Damage Your Health".

Living on

The right-wing Federation of Conservative Students may have been disbanded, but the Conservative Party must live with the taint for at least a year.

PHS

The unthinking enemy within

President Reagan has admitted that mistakes were made over Iran. That is all the more reason to keep those events in perspective.

The stakes are great. The world in 1986 is very different from the world in 1981. A steady erosion of clarity and confidence in Western ideas and values had pushed the West into a decade of decline.

As a result, in the last six years, we have not only prevented any nation from falling to communist conquest but have overturned the Brezhnev doctrine by welcoming the first country in post-war history, Grenada, back into the family of free nations.

Jack Kemp spells out the dangers in the attempts to undermine Reagan over Iran

paralyzing US foreign policy but rendering the entire Western world less prosperous, safe and free. We can expect great pressure from three fronts.

First, congressional opponents will attempt to use Iran as a means to lessen the President's power to conduct foreign policy. Over the past decade we have witnessed a rash of congressional initiatives to limit presidential authority.

Efforts to weaken the National Security Council and the US intelligence agencies should also be expected. While such congressional supervision might satisfy some partisan feelings, it can only harm our nation.

Second, there will be a wholesale effort to dismantle the Reagan doctrine. No issue inspires more irrational opposition than Reagan's commitment to help

people to fight for their self-determination.

Thus the new Democratic leadership will try to stop funds for the Contras in Nicaragua. Even now they are trying to resurrect a plan that could cut off aid to the Contras in return for Nicaraguan communists signing a "peace treaty" which would neither bind them to keep the peace nor to honour their still unmet pledge to implement democracy.

The President will also come under pressure to support an accord in Afghanistan that would stop US arms shipments to the anti-communist guerrillas before any Soviet withdrawal.

Third, liberals in Congress and the arms control bureaucracy will intensify efforts to lock the President into arms control policies that code unwise and unequal advantages to the Soviet Union.

The President must draw the line, and, if necessary, veto any reduction in his authority to conduct foreign policy.

to thwart State Department efforts for a phony Contadora peace treaty for Nicaragua as he did last spring. In Afghanistan, he may have to stop the sellout of the Mujahedin.

On arms control, we need to insist on Soviet compliance with existing agreements before signing new ones, and on strict verification procedures as a sine qua non. And while striving for equitable reductions in nuclear arms, let us remember Mrs Thatcher's words that nuclear weapons in the hands of the West have been guarantors of freedom and peace.

Above all, we must build on our progress, working with our allies for stronger co-operation against terrorism, continued conventional modernization and a clear, workable blueprint to fund and begin immediate deployment of SDI.

The author is Republican congressman for Buffalo, New York, and is seen as a contender for the 1988 presidential nomination.

Clifford Longley examines the dilemma confronting the churches after John Biffen's appeal for moral reinforcement for the government's health awareness campaign

Schism over the scourge

The Christian churches, acting as guardians of traditional sexual morality, could become the government's most important allies in its education campaign against Aids.

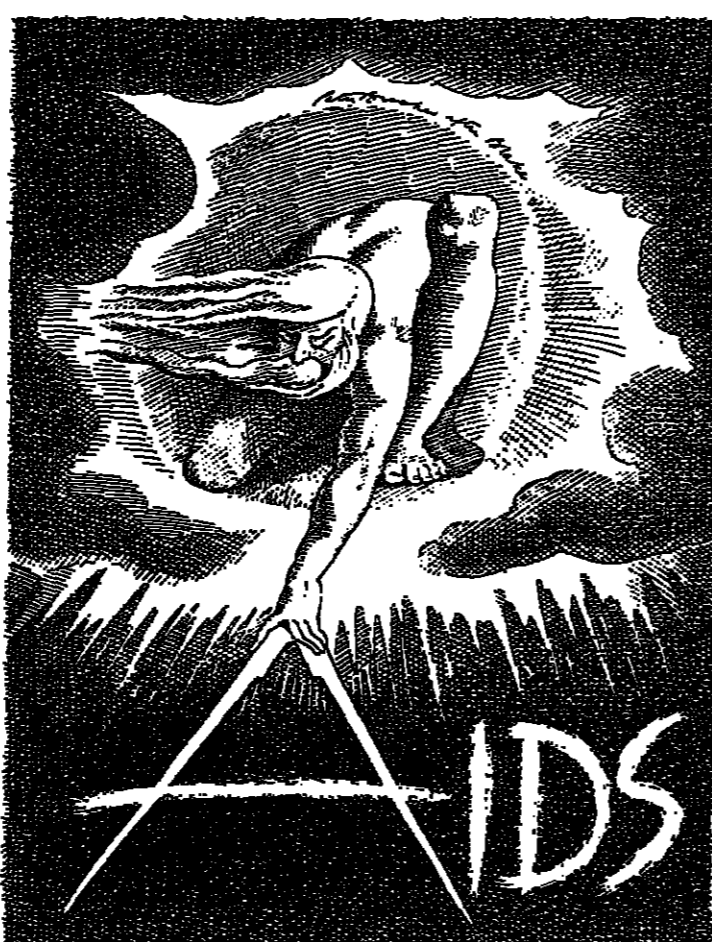
Neither church nor government has fully appreciated that pre-Aids and post-Aids are two entirely different worlds, and that the earlier balances and compromises on sexual morality are not necessarily workable any more.

The revolution in attitudes once this goal is seen as impossible will be enormous, but it is a revolution which has hardly started.

In the Church of England, for instance, it is drawing attention to the profound disagreement concerning homosexuality. In evidence to a House of Commons committee on Aids this week, the General Synod's board for social responsibility had to admit that some hold the traditional view while others "leave the issue to private judgment where a stable caring relationship exists."

Against heterosexual promiscuity, the board cites a version of the so-called natural law argument - that human bodies are not designed for casual sex, and therefore it is bound to lead to trouble.

The traditionalists have spotted this already, and attempts are likely to be made soon to relaunch the debate on the morality of homosexual acts.



is no guarantee that he will understand them. The Catholic bishops have not been quick to accept his offer, which suggests they are not quite sure what they want to say to him.

The fact is that the Catholic Church, like the Church of England, is still feeling its way, not quite sure what note to strike. While in the Anglican case the lack of an official line on homosexuality makes the church's attitude seem confused, so in the Catholic case the issue is bedevilled by the government's promotion of condoms as its first line of defence against Aids.

So the Christmas cracker Aids condom for Catholic churchmen is this: if it is wrong to use condoms, and wrong to be sexually promiscuous, can it be right to urge the sexually promiscuous

to use condoms? For that is what the government is doing. And the point is not lost on the church that unless the promiscuous do indeed use condoms, there is every likelihood of a serious Aids epidemic.

So far no leader of any of the main denominations has given currency to the view that Aids is divine punishment for immorality. But beneath the surface it is clear that many of them do in fact believe something on those lines.

They say it is the latter; and if God disapproves it is because of the harm that follows. But post-Aids, the harm is potentially far more serious. It may not be God taking revenge, but it is certainly nature taking revenge; and God, the churchmen all confess, designed nature.

There is plenty of substance here with which the churches could mount a stong assault on public opinion, quite openly admitting that they are using the Aids threat to promote traditional standards of sexual behaviour, with an argument like that above providing the logical connection.

At the moment they merely seem to want the government to do this for them: official Anglican and Catholic comments on the anti-Aids programme have regretted that the emphasis is on condoms rather than on chastity.

The issue for churchmen, now, is whether they can devise a programme of public education themselves that would stand a reasonable chance of changing people's moral attitudes and behaviour in favour of chastity. If they could, they might reasonably expect the government to help to pay for it, in the name of public health.

Today's message from Bethlehem

The people in the camps know that Christmas is coming when the number of arrests starts to rise. In the past week there have been 20, slightly more than usual, but that was expected in the wake of the widespread, often violent, demonstrations in the Israeli-occupied territories this month.

The camp is Dheishah, which hangs on to the southern fringe of Bethlehem along the eastern side of the main road to Hebron. When tensions rise, children in the camp specialize in throwing stones at the Israeli cars travelling up and down the highway.

Majed Nimer Odeh has been arrested seven times in his young life and he pulls a wry face when he is asked about the Christmas message. "During this period the Israelis try to put away the more nationalist ones. They can make an arrest and don't need to make a charge for 18 days, so just before Christmas they round up the likely troublemakers."

tents just across the road and increase the patrols. Then we know it's Christmas."

They know one about a pregnant virgin, who gave birth under a palm tree and was then inspired to take the fruit of the tree and eat it, she explains. Her children identify the garish tinsel tree in Manger Square, where the Christmas processions start, as the tree of that virgin. But the Christmas message seems lost. Will the five-year-olds grow up to throw stones? "Why not?", says the social worker whose father went to prison. "They are Palestinians."

The camp is unmistakably Muslim. Its one new building is the minaret of the mosque, rising like a lighthouse above the squalor. Old men with grizzled beards and torn keffiyah head-scarfs wonder at the growing enthusiasm of the young for regular prayer.

history and is proud of it. At the infant school the teacher is a trained social worker, Najah Ibrahim, who remembers how, as a girl of six, she was shocked when her father was arrested within days of Israel occupying the West Bank in 1967.

They know one about a pregnant virgin, who gave birth under a palm tree and was then inspired to take the fruit of the tree and eat it, she explains. Her children identify the garish tinsel tree in Manger Square, where the Christmas processions start, as the tree of that virgin. But the Christmas message seems lost. Will the five-year-olds grow up to throw stones? "Why not?", says the social worker whose father went to prison. "They are Palestinians."

Shimon Peres is no longer prime minister of Israel, as stated in an article on this page on Friday

of the Judean Hills. From the age of eight, children are taken back to the area in the summer to work in the fields and orchards, now run by Jewish farmers, and to see the land from which their families fled in 1948.

"They get arrested so often that they start not caring," says Majed Odeh. "The young people start having no fear. They just don't care if they are caught. It becomes normal being arrested."

To judge by the cold and empty streets of Bethlehem this year, that resentful militancy is having its effect. The tinsel outside the shops tarnishes in the rain. Salesmen from shops selling olive wood and mother-of-pearl rush out in near desperation to call "please come inside and look, only look," at each rare passing tourist.

Tales of terrorism and unrest spread worldwide have wrecked travel to the holy places this year. Hotels have never been so empty. There is plenty of room in the inns. There is too much peace and quiet, but for the wrong reasons. It is born, not of Christmas, but of the filth, frustration, and resentment that produces violence in the refugee camps.

Ian Murray

Digby Anderson

Now: the stiff as a board game

Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary, pointed out in a recent interview that the increase in home and share ownership meant that the owners' children would receive "a sizeable inheritance... in their middle years".

Until recently, this presented few problems. Many parents had comparatively little wealth to leave. The choice of beneficiary was obvious; each other, then their children, and, more often than not, only two of them.

In the majority of harmonious families all was straightforward. Gone were the dilemmas and struggles of the large 19th century families with early and unexpected deaths, demographics which furnished the background for the plot of many a Victorian novel about wicked guardian uncles trying to defraud consumptive wards of their rightful inheritance.

Though higher pensions cannot themselves be inherited by children, they may protect other, capital assets for transfer. Not all these assets are passed on through wills: many are transferred before death to avoid taxes. But to those owning them, they are all sums to be passed on and about which decisions have to be made.

Those inheriting these sums, the offspring, are no longer, in many cases, impoverished young marrieds, let alone penniless children, but married couples with a house of their own and at the peak of their own earning power.

It is not only family patterns which are changing. The institutions to which many leave money are also subject to rapid change. Pity those who left hard-earned money to enrich a high altar for

use in the church's central act of worship, only for ecclesiastical fashion to make it redundant some five years after and set up an ugly wooden table in its stead.

Many of our towns, especially at the seaside, are decorated with wooden benches inscribed with the names of their donors who, no doubt, had pleasant visions of providing a placid resting place for pensioners loaded with shopping to sit, look at the sea, converse and meet friends. Would they have left the money if they could have seen the benches piled high with teenagers eating soggy chips, groping at each other and shouting abuse at the present generation of pensioners as they wearily pass?

What will son Richard do if he finds himself with £100,000 to blow at the age of 45 just as he and Margaret are simultaneously enjoying their mid-life crises, seeing their house empty of the cementing influence of their now adult children and going through an acrimonious "bad patch"? Mr Walker thinks he will rush out and start a business.

I gather that the determination to get round to making a will features high in the New Year resolutions of those of a certain age. Perhaps if Christmas gets unbearably warm and friendly, they might cool things down a bit by inviting the family to join in and argue about who should inherit before they decide on January 1.

The argument turns out to be just like the politics of welfare: there are advocates of comprehensive welfare who want everyone to receive an equal share; means testers who would direct it at those with least income; wealth creators who would give it to those who have made most money and might make more of more; fine tuners who would try to rig its future benefits in detail; and, just like politicians, those who would use it to satisfy old scores or foment envy and unrest. A most educational Christmas game - let's call it Testaments.

No, you can't see the right answers. I just thought you might like a new, genuine and intriguing social puzzle to play. Anything to distract attention from the one "they" have set us for 1987. Can you imagine? A whole year of the Environment.

The author is director of the Social Affairs Unit.

moreover... Miles Kingdon

I've got it, you name it

Here is a little Christmas quiz based loosely on the year's news, which you may care to cut out and keep for the festive period, or even cut into individual questions for stuffing into crackers. There are no prizes for getting the right answers save a glow of smugness.

- 1. Which was the event most looked forward to during the whole of 1986 and which, when it came, turned out to be the dampest squib? (a) Big Bang; (b) Royal Wedding; (c) Eddy Shah's Today.
2. Which of the following is the most accurate description of Big Bang? (a) It is a method of dragging the running of the London Stock Exchange from the 18th century into the 19th; (b) It enables insiders to get news of Guinness share price movements even earlier than they would normally do; (c) It keeps Sid in touch.
3. Which, during 1986, became the longest-running war in 20th-century history? (a) Iran-Iraq War; (b) Contest between Karpov and Kasparov; (c) The America's Cup preliminaries.
4. Courtney Pine is which of the following? (a) Jazz musician; (b) Most expensive health resort in Britain; (c) Small Wiltshire village where cruise-missile carriers always break down.
5. What has been described as the most racially-oriented set-up in the world today? (a) South Africa; (b) Brent Council.
6. Robert Maxwell was accused by Private Eye of having asked Labour politicians for a title. This charge was thrown out on the grounds that: (a) Labour politicians would never be in a position to grant him a title; (b) The title had already been given to Bob Geldof and melted down to raise money for Band Aid; (c) If the accusation was made by Private Eye it must be false.
7. The British government is trying to prevent publication of Peter Wright's book in Australia because: (a) The book needs all the publicity it can get; (b) The case gives a few politicians and civil servants the chance to fly out to Australia to watch a Test match; (c) Sir Michael Havers and Sir Robert Armstrong are both full-time Soviet spies?
8. What is or are Loose Tubes? (a) New jazz band; (b) British entrant in the America's Cup; (c) Rare

disease from which Michael Heseltine suffers.

9. Samosa is or was what? (a) A Pacific island on which France tests her anti-Greenpeace weapons; (b) Absolutely delicious oriental snack; (c) President of Mozambique who very suddenly became ex-president while flying over South Africa.

10. The Nimrod early-warning system was turned down by the British government in preference to the American Awacs system because: (a) It was backed by the Ministry of Defence and therefore suspect; (b) You could see its arguments coming a mile off; (c) Anything made by a company with James Prior in charge is not going to be picked by the British government while Mrs Thatcher is in charge.

11. Which of the following was given away this year by Mrs Thatcher because nobody could be found who wanted to buy a single share in it? (a) Westland Helicopters; (b) Leon Brittan; (c) The Commonwealth Games.

12. What does it mean when an American citizen pleads the Fifth Amendment? (a) He knows everything; (b) He knows nothing; (c) He knows everything but President Reagan knows nothing.

13. Ian Botham declared that he would rather leave Somerset than be parted from Viv Richards and Joel Garner. As a result: (a) All three have gone to play for different counties; (b) All three have gone to play in different counties; (c) Taunton, in desperation, has decided to leave the Commonwealth and make a unilateral declaration of independence.

14. Prime Minister's Question Time is an ancient parliamentary ritual which is so called because: (a) The prime minister asks all the questions; (b) Mr Kinnoch asks very long questions divided into five separate parts; and Mrs Thatcher answers none of them; (c) Mrs Thatcher reads out bits of paper on which are written statistics about the performance of the last Labour government which has no relevance to any question she is being asked.

15. Jeffrey Archer is currently: (a) Writing a novel based on his life; (b) Starting in a film based on his life; (c) Writing an apologetic Christmas card to Mrs Thatcher.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

THE SOCIALIST DILEMMA

Mr Neil Kinnock must hope that the end of 1986 is the nadir of his and his party's fortunes from which both will recover as the general election draws near. It would certainly be foolish to suppose that either Labour or its leader can now be written off. Despite the fall in Labour's public support as charted by the opinion polls, the party still has immense reserves of support to draw on from people and from social classes who take it as axiomatic that Labour is the natural defender of their interests and who feel tied to it by history.

This support gives the party a solid platform in certain areas from which it can rise again if the Conservatives are damaged either by their own errors or by political accidents. Labour's massive majorities in these places also make it hard for the Alliance, with its own vote spread more evenly and thinly over the country, to supplant Labour as the Tories' principal rival. The important qualification to the Tories' recent rise in the opinion polls at Labour's expense is that, even in relation to the latest Gallup poll (giving the Tories an 8.5 per cent lead) Labour support is still significantly higher than it was in the 1983 election.

When all this is said, however, the outlook for Labour today seems bleak. It is understandable that some of Mr Kinnock's colleagues should press him to bowdlerise still further the parties' commitment to expel the US nuclear bases which, with its anti-Nato implication, has recently done Labour most damage.

They would also like Labour to switch its attack to social and economic policies, and specifically to the welfare services, education, unemployment and industrial policy. Yet it is by no means clear that Labour will do better on this pitch than it has done with defence, unless the government inflicts damage on itself. The economy is improving, unemployment is falling, and the government is spending more on the social services. But above all, the public's rejection of Labour lies not in its stars, nor even in its leader, but in its own present nature.

Mr Kinnock, it is true, does appear increasingly implausible as a national leader. His attempts to explain away public anxieties over Labour's defence policy on the grounds that it will make Britain stronger seem simply ludicrous against Nato condemnation. But the intellectual incoherence which he manifests merely reflects the intellectual incoherence of a Labour Party which, faced with the electorate's rejection of the socialism to which the party is hooked, tries to camouflage its objectives with a smart public image and verbal re-packaging.

In one sense it is a problem as old as the attempts of the Gaitskellites in the 1950s to turn Labour in a new direction. It had then become clear that the country, though it wanted a welfare state, would tolerate no more socialism. Gaitskell and his friends fought to reverse their party's socialist commitment and

seemed almost to have succeeded. The Wilson government of 1964 was the beneficiary of this achievement. Six years later, however, its version of social democracy had foundered, largely because the unions made it unworkable. Then, in the 1970s, came Labour's massive shift to the left, the abolition of its defences against extremist infiltration, and the clear socialist commitment which, under Mr Michael Foot's leadership, was rejected by the nation.

It was as the candidate of this commitment to socialism that Mr Kinnock rose to be his party's leader. He is the child of socialism and he shares its reflex actions, even though he now tries to trim the party's policies to accommodate the fact that the nation dislikes them. He encapsulates Labour's problem, but he is not its cause. He is not a clear-headed politician, and is prone to suppose that verbal fluency washes away public discontent.

It is probably true that social policy offers Labour more than defence. Yet if Mr Kinnock had avoided going into battle for the defence policy to which he and his party were committed, he would have been smoked out and would have had to try to explain it sooner or later, with precisely the same effect. The same is also true of social policy. The nation does not want socialism, yet socialism is what it is being offered. Mr Kinnock is not a brilliant politician, but the most brilliant of politicians cannot sell policies the nation dislikes.

BALANCING THE UN BUDGET

Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds nought and six, recit misery - said Mr Micawber. He was not, however, thinking of the United Nations, where the result would have been not so much misery as a demand for more money from Washington. That at least has been the position until now, and the news that things have changed is as welcome over here as it is over there. The UN is becoming cash conscious.

The 15 per cent cut, which has now been agreed in the organization's 14,000 staff - together with economies in meetings, travel expenses and paperwork - is long overdue. Last year, for example, it was proposed to hold three special meetings on Southern Africa away from the organization's New York headquarters, although the additional (and quite unnecessary) cost of staging them out of town was equivalent to the total annual UN contributions of its 40 poorest countries. With 70 nations responsible for less than two per cent of the annual UN budget, the Third World has been perfectly happy to see overall spending double within a decade.

Meanwhile, developing countries have been able to use the General Assembly as a forum for their anti-Americanism and strident dislike of Western capitalist powers - who actually *did* have to meet the rising bills.

THE POOR AT CHRISTMAS

Poverty, a pinched and miserable experience at any time, is particularly depressing over Christmas. The annual orgy of getting, spending and advertising makes poor families feel their everyday deprivations with particular sharpness. Everyone else is unceasingly conscious of the paradox that the religious season which should relieve the poor of their burdens has become a grand commercial celebration which makes those burdens more onerous than usual. It is half the reason why charities make their appeals to the general public at this time.

Hence, perhaps, the appearance this week of two studies of poverty in Britain from the Low Pay Unit and the Child Poverty Action Group. Both argue that poverty has grown worse in Britain - over periods of 100 and 20 years respectively.

Take, first, the Low Pay Unit's report, *The Pay Race - Winner and Losers*. This points out that in 1886 the bottom fifth of wage-earners earned 69 per cent of the average annual wage. Today, the same calculation suggests that the bottom fifth earn only 65 per cent of the average. Accordingly, the report con-

cludes that the "gap" between the lowest-paid and the rest of society has "widened." However, over the same period, the real income of both average earners and the low paid has risen something like fourfold. In comparison with this 400 per cent rise in their real living standards, the four per cent drop in relative earnings by the low paid is a statistical blip of no significance. It is a measure not of poverty, but of inequality.

The term invented to make such reasoning popular is, of course, relative poverty. The essentially bogus character of this concept can be seen as follows. If a slump were to cut average earnings by half but below-average earnings by only a quarter, the low-paid might be relatively better-off.

Similar reasoning flaws the CPAG's report on poor children. This argues that not only are more children living in poverty today, but also that such poverty is greater than it was 20 years ago, since supplementary benefits have declined as a percentage of average earnings from 48 to 39 per cent.

In fact, both average earnings and supplementary bene-

fits have risen in real terms. As another table in the report reveals, a family of four living on supplementary benefit today is about 12 per cent better-off in real terms than in 1966 since that is the amount by which the increase in benefits has outstripped price rises.

Furthermore, that rise in real supplementary benefit levels is one reason for the increase in the number of poor people. As the level at which people become eligible for social benefits rises, so more people become eligible and thus defined as poor. Official figures suggest that the six per cent rise by which benefits have outstripped prices since 1979 accounts for the entire increase in the number of people at or below supplementary benefit levels.

But relative poverty in Britain remains not too far from absolute poverty. Those on supplementary benefit this Christmas will not be starving, but they will not be enjoying high standards of nutrition or good housing conditions. It is that which should concern us, not the manipulation of statistics which tell us more about the political convictions of their authors than about the condition of England.

Soviet view of space-based defence

From Major-General Rair Simonyan
Sir, I would like to express my disagreement with the article in support of the strategic defence initiative by David Hart (December 2).

First, the author of the article claims that SDI, even if it is only 32 per cent effective in destroying enemy targets, will substantially enhance defence, stabilise the international situation and deprive the Soviet Union of a first-strike capability.

However, deterrence implies that in the event of nuclear attack, the victim must have the ability to inflict unacceptable retaliatory damage on the aggressor. By seeking to deprive the Soviet Union of this capability, SDI actually undermines deterrence.

Furthermore, even if SDI is only partially implemented, the risk of nuclear conflict will increase, because SDI implies the development of weapons which are both offensive and defensive. A space-based missile defence system could become a shield from behind which the United States might try to launch a first strike (and surely it is illogical for Mr Hart to base his argument on the premise that the Soviet Union, which has a no-first-use-of-nuclear-weapons policy, would start such a conflict, rather than the United States, which has never ruled out a first strike).

Second, Mr Hart advances utopian claims for a jointly-controlled Soviet-American missile defence system. But even if both sides deploy such systems the strategic system would remain unstable because the system of one side would be able to put out of commission the system of the other.

Third, Mr Hart argues that since any programme to counter land-based lasers would be more expensive than their deployment, these lasers could make the whole system ineffective. Yet there are just four of many cheap ways to render land-based lasers ineffective: the orbital spraying of fine particles creating mirror surface defects that make laser focusing impossible; spraying light-weight materials near a mirror or laser with a high degree of laser radiation absorption; protecting missiles with beam-reflecting and absorbing coating or making missiles revolve around their axes to prevent laser beam focusing; shortening the post-boost path of ballistic missiles and other measures to impede anti-missile weapon targeting.

The flaw in Mr Hart's argument is the point that the only way to peace and stability lies through agreements on cutting and eventually eliminating nuclear weapons here on earth rather than through the development of space shield-swords.

Yours sincerely,
RAIR SIMONYAN,
Ministry of Defence of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,
Frunzi Street, Moscow, USSR,
December 16.

From Mr G.M.L. Smith
Sir, Major-General James Lunt (December 12) demonstrates the futility of Mr Kinnock's idyllic dream of matching the Warsaw

overwhelming, the plea "guilty" and the consequence a driving ban of not less than a year. Accordingly the likelihood of injustice or hardship in imposing a pre-trial ban is not great. The advantage to the public is that the danger presented by the drink/driver is immediately removed.

There is one anomaly in the present law, however. Where a man has been remanded in custody before trial and is given a custodial sentence the time spent on remand is treated as having been part of the sentence. If a man is banned from driving pre-trial by way of a bail condition, this will not, as I understand the law, count towards any period of disqualification subsequently imposed for the offence. This unfortunate error should be removed.

The drink/driver is usually at his worst at this time of year. I hope the "controversial" justices in Oxford are not to be alone in doing their bit to keep our roads safe.

Yours faithfully,
TOD HARRISON,
Harrison & Co, Solicitors,
Swain Lane,
Haverhill, Suffolk,
December 11.

Law on bad debts

From Mr M. A. Sheldon-Allen
Sir, The letter of Mr Sidney Z. Manches (December 11) makes a number of valid points. This association, during its short life thus far of nearly four years, has spent most of its energies in trying to obtain more equitable treatment for those made bankrupt, whilst still recognising the position of the creditors.

Under the new Insolvency Act no prior court proceedings will be needed in many cases, since the act of bankruptcy (now given a new name) will be the failure to pay within a short period of time any moneys due to the creditor after the service of a demand in a prescribed form.

The debtor has the right, on limited grounds, to apply to set aside the demand, but we will increasingly see petitions presented and bankruptcy orders made without the liability for the debt being properly tested by the courts.

It cannot be disputed that the old bankruptcy laws were founded in the days of Dickens. It is my view that the new insolvency laws take us back to the attitude of the Middle Ages.

Home thoughts on curriculum

From Viscountess Ingleby

Sir, As Mr Kenneth Baker makes his plans for a national curriculum, may I make a special plea for the importance of the less obvious subject of home economics to be included (with realistically adequate time in the timetable) in every school, for every young person - academic and less so, boys as well as girls?

With so many broken homes today in every stratum of society, and also many youngsters in residential care for much of their upbringing, this particular subject has an even greater significance beyond the classroom.

If well taught, it can give added confidence and often, instead of a sense of inadequacy, of achievable possibilities beyond the subject matter (i.e., the tools for the job of household management, bringing up a family, good budgeting, cooking and health matters etc) to build better, more stable homes for themselves and their own families - particularly to those most in need of it.

I write from the experience of a good many years as governor of a comprehensive school (previously grammar) in inner London, coupled with involvement with voluntary residential work with young people.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN INGLEBY,
Flat 1, 61 Onslow Square, SW7.

Hope deferred

From Professor T. C. Barker

Sir, In June this year the Economic and Social Research Council announced that it had allocated £250,000 to promote research into the history of innovation in the United Kingdom. I was invited to join five other specialists on a small sub-committee to make recommendations on the merits of the various applications for this money and to monitor the progress of research.

Early in August I was informed that the first meeting of the sub-committee would be held today (December 5).

Very recently I received a brief note from ESRC telling me that, although 39 proposals awaited our consideration, the meeting had been postponed because of "budgetary constraints on further travel and subsistence expenditure in this financial year."

None of us had to be brought from outside the United Kingdom. Three of us, in fact, would have to travel no more than about 50 miles and I merely had to cross a small part of London. No indication was given of how far into the future the meeting would have to be postponed.

Presumably the allocation of the £250,000 will now be deferred until next financial year. Meanwhile the 39 applicants will be left wondering what is happening.

That the only Government source of funding for the social sciences has been brought to such a pass is most alarming.

Yours faithfully,
T. C. BARKER,
The London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2,
December 5.

Patent protection

From Mr Archy Kirkwood, MP for Roxburgh and Berwickshire (Liberal)

Sir, The campaign by the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry to abolish licences of right for pharmaceutical products, of which echoes have recently appeared in your columns (November 26, December 1), is as astonishing as it is audacious.

The multinational drug companies are amongst the world's most profitable businesses; earlier this year they obtained a 260 million bonus through the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme and now they are mounting a campaign whose effect will be to prejudice the continuing viability of the independent generics industry.

The claim that the licence of right provision in the 1977 Patents Act is "unique to the UK" is at best a half-truth. The degree of protection in Britain is exceptionally great because the product itself is protected, rather than simply the process of manufacture (as is the case in such countries as Denmark, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Finland, Norway, and Canada).

And to cite the United States, as Sir John Harvey-Jones does (December 1), is extraordinary, as there - unlike the UK - substitution of generic products for the original brand is available at the retail pharmacist level.

What must be remembered is that all products patented since 1978 now enjoy a 20-year patent protection - the argument centres solely on the pre-1978 patented products. When invented, these had only a 16-year patent life; the 1977 Patents Act retrospectively extended this to 20 years and deliberately balanced this extension with a licence of right provision available only for the final four years.

To abolish licences of right now would impose an extra £150-200 million annual burden on the National Health Service's drugs bill by the early 1990s and kill off the competition from the independent generic industry, which has helped to keep this bill down. This hardly accords with economic sense or with the Government's professed belief in free competition.

Yours sincerely,
ARCHY KIRKWOOD,
House of Commons.

Home thoughts on curriculum

From Viscountess Ingleby

Sir, As Mr Kenneth Baker makes his plans for a national curriculum, may I make a special plea for the importance of the less obvious subject of home economics to be included (with realistically adequate time in the timetable) in every school, for every young person - academic and less so, boys as well as girls?

With so many broken homes today in every stratum of society, and also many youngsters in residential care for much of their upbringing, this particular subject has an even greater significance beyond the classroom.

If well taught, it can give added confidence and often, instead of a sense of inadequacy, of achievable possibilities beyond the subject matter (i.e., the tools for the job of household management, bringing up a family, good budgeting, cooking and health matters etc) to build better, more stable homes for themselves and their own families - particularly to those most in need of it.

I write from the experience of a good many years as governor of a comprehensive school (previously grammar) in inner London, coupled with involvement with voluntary residential work with young people.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN INGLEBY,
Flat 1, 61 Onslow Square, SW7.

Hope deferred

From Professor T. C. Barker

Sir, In June this year the Economic and Social Research Council announced that it had allocated £250,000 to promote research into the history of innovation in the United Kingdom. I was invited to join five other specialists on a small sub-committee to make recommendations on the merits of the various applications for this money and to monitor the progress of research.

Early in August I was informed that the first meeting of the sub-committee would be held today (December 5).

Very recently I received a brief note from ESRC telling me that, although 39 proposals awaited our consideration, the meeting had been postponed because of "budgetary constraints on further travel and subsistence expenditure in this financial year."

None of us had to be brought from outside the United Kingdom. Three of us, in fact, would have to travel no more than about 50 miles and I merely had to cross a small part of London. No indication was given of how far into the future the meeting would have to be postponed.

Presumably the allocation of the £250,000 will now be deferred until next financial year. Meanwhile the 39 applicants will be left wondering what is happening.

That the only Government source of funding for the social sciences has been brought to such a pass is most alarming.

Yours faithfully,
T. C. BARKER,
The London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2,
December 5.

Patent protection

From Mr Archy Kirkwood, MP for Roxburgh and Berwickshire (Liberal)

Sir, The campaign by the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry to abolish licences of right for pharmaceutical products, of which echoes have recently appeared in your columns (November 26, December 1), is as astonishing as it is audacious.

The multinational drug companies are amongst the world's most profitable businesses; earlier this year they obtained a 260 million bonus through the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme and now they are mounting a campaign whose effect will be to prejudice the continuing viability of the independent generics industry.

The claim that the licence of right provision in the 1977 Patents Act is "unique to the UK" is at best a half-truth. The degree of protection in Britain is exceptionally great because the product itself is protected, rather than simply the process of manufacture (as is the case in such countries as Denmark, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Finland, Norway, and Canada).

And to cite the United States, as Sir John Harvey-Jones does (December 1), is extraordinary, as there - unlike the UK - substitution of generic products for the original brand is available at the retail pharmacist level.

What must be remembered is that all products patented since 1978 now enjoy a 20-year patent protection - the argument centres solely on the pre-1978 patented products. When invented, these had only a 16-year patent life; the 1977 Patents Act retrospectively extended this to 20 years and deliberately balanced this extension with a licence of right provision available only for the final four years.

To abolish licences of right now would impose an extra £150-200 million annual burden on the National Health Service's drugs bill by the early 1990s and kill off the competition from the independent generic industry, which has helped to keep this bill down. This hardly accords with economic sense or with the Government's professed belief in free competition.

Yours sincerely,
ARCHY KIRKWOOD,
House of Commons.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 23 1935

New Zealand had won the second Rugby encounter between the two countries in 1935, so that this was regarded as the "decider". They increased the excitement and Bernard Darwin, as ardent a partisan for Wales in Rugby as he was for Cambridge in golf, flung his hat in the air and, on his own admission, led away almost in tears.

RUGBY FOOTBALL A WELSH VICTORY ALL BLACKS LOSE A GREAT GAME

From Our Rugby Football Correspondent

Welsh Rugby football bridged the years at Cardiff on Saturday when New Zealand were beaten by the odd point in 23 - two goals and one try (13 points) to one goal, one dropped goal and one try (12 points).

The story of the match unfolded itself with all the cruel relish of highly-spiced fiction. A ground hardened by frost and a treacherous surface added to the thrills and hazards. To the winners, even more than to the losers, it was an uphill fight from the first kick to the last. Like 1905 in result, it was most unlike it in development. In 1905, perhaps the greatest of all Welsh sides won a grim struggle against the original All Blacks, by one try to nothing - the famous text-book try scored by Terry Morgan was the result of Welsh mistakes and the greatness of Gilbert as a kicker. Gilbert's dropped goal from almost halfway will live as long in the memory, or even longer, than Wallace's winning hazard at Swansea 30 years ago.

WOOLLER'S STRIDE

Wales, having escaped actual disaster in the first half while the forwards were settling down into pack - the lessons in forward play were cheap at three points - suddenly sprung to effective life early in the second half. The chances in the open never were of the obvious kind, and the classical method of approach was next to impossible. But, in their use of Wooller's stupendous stride - now being used in midfield - the cleverly placed punt ahead, and last but not least, the suggestion offered to the man who had looked away, helped by the bounce of the ball, the Welsh backs showed themselves better opportunists even than their brilliant opponents.

Two tries, each made into a goal, turned Wales from a losing side into a winning one in a few minutes. Yet the battle was barely half lost and won. Crisis once more settled on the Welsh team, when under intense pressure mistakes were made, and a wonderful dropped goal by Gilbert, closely followed by a second try by Bell, seemed to spell bitter disappointment. There was a horrified expression when the score-board, which had to be rectified at the instruction of the referee, established the fact that Gilbert also had converted Bell's snatch-try into a goal and the score had changed from 10-3 in favour of Wales to 12-10 the other way round. None too much time remained, but the Welsh counter-effort, undertaken by the carrying away of Tarr, their hooker, on a stretcher, was to prove invincible, and 60,000 imprisoned spectators fairly broke loose when the winning try was scored.

Even then the result was not fully signed and sealed... When, at last, Edward Ross, so brave and tall, a player in his way as Wooller was in his, caught the final kick and punted it deliberately into touch, a shouting crowd swept over the field... singing... "Land of my Fathers".

Helping charities

From Mr James G. L. Jackson

Sir, Miss Edna Smith (December 17) will be glad to know that the introduction of Christmas cards produced and sold by charities led to the formation of The 1959 Group of Charities by 20 national associations concerned with medical research and the welfare of handicapped persons.

Since 1959 the Group has annually been responsible for the temporary opening of charity Christmas card shops around the country, with the administrative costs being shared by the participating societies.

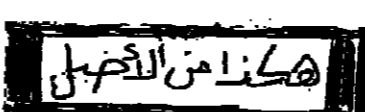
The limitation, for practical purposes, to medically-oriented charities led to the later formation of other groups incorporating many non-medical organisations. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
JAMES G. L. JACKSON
(Founder Chairman, The 1959 Group of Charities),
As from: Beacons,
Northbrook Avenue,
Winchester, Hampshire.

From Mrs Pamela Jenkins

Sir, Many of our local shops which advertise "pocket money toys" have changed their labels (on shelves within the easy reach of children) to "stocking fillers".

Do the managers of these shops assume that only non-readers believe in Father Christmas or, as my son believes, does Santa now shop in the High Street?

Yours faithfully,
PAMELA JENKINS,
10 Riselaw Crescent,
Edinburgh,
December 16.



COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

A service on thanksgiving for the life of Mr Alastair Guthrie will take place at St Mary's Church, Brynston Square, London, W1, on Thursday, January 8, 1987, at 11 am.

A memorial service for Pauline Grant will be held today at 11 am at Brompton Oratory.

Richard Dimbleby Cancer Fund

The trustees of The Richard Dimbleby Cancer Fund thank all those who supported the Celebration of a Broadsheet, which appeared on BBC2 on Tuesday, December 16. Donations and legacies are always needed, and should be sent to The Richard Dimbleby Cancer Fund, 14 King Street, Richmond, Surrey.

Birthdays today

Lord Bancroft, 64; Mrs C. Bicknell, 67; Mr Archibald Black, 79; Lord Blake, 70; Vice-Admiral Sir Stephen Carrill, 84; Professor Sir Thomas Crawford, 75; Mr Maurice Denham, 77; Sir Colin Fielding, 60; Mr Christopher Lawrence, 50; Brigadier Sir Geoffrey Macnab, 87; Miss J. M. O'Connell, 63; Herr Helmut Schmidt, 68.

University news

Cambridge Election
Mr Raymond Freeman, Aldrichian praefector in chemistry, Oxford University, to the John Humphrey Plummer professorship of physics from July 1, 1987.

Dr Wendy Margaret Bennett has been appointed a fellow of Queens' College from January 1. Mr Maurice Meynell Scarr has been appointed a fellow commoner of Queens' from that date.

Wales
Dr David Emrys Evans, reader in mathematics at Warwick

Appointments

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food announce the following appointments, effective from December 24:
Mr G. Stapleton to be Chief Executive of the Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce, in succession to Mr A.K.H. Atkinson.
Mr J.W. Hepburn to be Director of Establishments, in succession to Mr Stapleton.
Mr A.R. Crickshank to be promoted to Under Secretary (Animal Health), in succession to Mr Hepburn.

Other appointments include: Rear Admiral K.A. Snow to be Receiver General and Chapter Clerk, Westminster Abbey, from March 26, 1987. He succeeds Mr W.R.J. Pullen, who is retiring.

Sir John Knox, QC, to be Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England. He succeeds Sir Raymond Walton.

The Rev Jeremy Martineau to be Chairman of Rural Voice, an alliance of nine organisations including the Council for the Protection of Rural England and the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

Dr R.A.S. Atwood, head of history, Repton School, to be Headmaster of Box Hill School, Dorking, from next September. He succeeds Mr Roy McCornish, who is retiring after 28 years as founder headmaster.

University has been appointed to the chair of mathematics at the University College of Swansea from next September.

Leicester
Dr B.J.T. Morgan, reader in statistics, to be professor of applied statistics from January 1, 1987.

Liverpool
Dr Richard Joyner has been appointed the first director of the Leverhulme Centre for Innovative Catalysis and professor of chemistry from next April. Dr Joyner is currently research associate and head of the fundamentals of catalysis group at the BP Research Centre, Sunbury-on-Thames.

Latest wills

Mr John Michael Croft, of Kentish Town, London, founding director of the National Youth Theatre, left estate valued at £252,861 net. Among other bequests he left his home (less any mortgage) to the National Youth Theatre.

Mr George Richards, of Wincanton, Somerset, left £204,999 net. After bequests totalling £53,500 and effects he left the residue to the Injured Jockeys Fund.

Dr Louis Minski, of Chesham, Surrey, child psychiatrist, left £103,673 net.

Lord Braye, 7th Baron, of Stanford Hall, Leicestershire, deputy lieutenant of the county since 1954, left estate valued at £1,121,286 net.

Mrs Jean Leslie Foster, of King's Lynn, Norfolk, left estate valued at £1,904,828 net. She left her property to relatives.

Lillian May Bartlett, of Westbury on Trym, Bristol, Avon, left £381,669 net. After bequests totalling £9,000 she left the residue equally between the Sacred Heart Church, Westbury, and St Joseph's Home, Cotham, Bristol.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Cherley, Mrs Elsie Esme, of Ferndown, Dorset — £354,530
Edmeades, Major Richard William, of Meopham, Kent — £633,625

Gill, Mrs Nellie Marion, of Boston Spa, West Yorkshire — £483,924
Stansard, Mrs Doris Cardwell, of Cheltenham — £343,441

Science report

Hormone's crucial role

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The hormone progesterone is described in the latest edition of *The New England Journal of Medicine* as unique in the role it plays in reproduction. Its presence is essential for a successful pregnancy, creating the ideal physiological conditions for a fertilised egg to become established in the uterus until the embryo is able to stimulate the secretion of this vital molecule.

In addition to the uterus, the breast and the brain are other target organs which respond to progesterone in the development of pregnancy. But understanding of its actions, and particularly its influence on the central nervous system, is apparently very sketchy.

Indeed, the commentary in the medical journal suggests that the current level of knowledge of the hormone represents the minimal understanding of the mechanisms of this crucial molecule.

This view of the importance of progesterone is presented by Dr William Crowley, an endocrinologist at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, before his review of a controversial paper in the same issue of the journal. It contains results of trials with a pill for early termination of pregnancy, up to six to seven weeks after conception. Termination works by blocking progesterone.

The trials, involving 100 women, were done in France by doctors working with Dr Beatrice Couzinet at the Hôpital de Bicêtre, at Bicêtre,

in conjunction with Roussel, the pharmaceutical firm.

The women were given a drug, a synthetic steroid called RU 486, during the first 10 days after their missed period. Complete abortions occurred in 85 per cent of the group and each case was the subject of close medical scrutiny and follow-up. Dr Crowley says: "The medical and social implications of this major advance are equally important".

He draws attention to the fact that RU 486, or mifepristone, was first used in research to find out more about progesterone because it is an antagonist to the hormone, or in other words, it blocks its action.

While Dr Crowley believes RU 486 offers "important new avenues of research" for gaining insight into infertility, he is less certain about the use of such compounds for termination of pregnancy. He says: "It will at once provide new options, yet force further difficult choices on a society already bitterly divided about medical termination of pregnancy".

He adds: "A grim footnote emerges from the report of Dr Couzinet and puts this agonizing social issue in sharper relief".

One of the women in the French trial had an abortion, experienced restoration of her normal cycle, and returned with a second unwanted pregnancy to participate in the study a few months later.

Source: *The New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol 313, p 1563, 1986.



The Prince of Wales riding with the Quorn Hunt at Hickling Pastures in Nottinghamshire yesterday.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.D.N. Argent and Miss S.J. Seymour
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of Mr and Mrs T.H. Argent, of Stapfield, Sussex, and Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J.F. Seymour, of Lidgate, Newmarket, Suffolk.

Mr S.T. Ayres and Miss S.C. Kemp
The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Mr and Mrs John Ayres, of Paignton, Devon, and Stephanie, elder daughter of Mr Raymond Kemp, of Haslemere, Surrey, and Mrs Robert Orrin, of Farnborough, Hampshire.

Mr C.R. Chope and Miss C.M. Hutchinson
The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of Mr Honour and Mrs Robert Chope, of Cardew, Truro, Cornwall, and Christine, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Hutchinson, of Chipperfield Common, Hertfordshire.

Mr T.M. Clayton and Miss R. Dunthorne
The engagement is announced between Timothy Mark, son of Mr and Mrs D.M. Clayton, of Wimbledon, London, and Rebecca, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.J. Dunthorne, of Ely, Cambridgeshire.

Mr P.M. Collin and Miss P.J. Williams
The engagement is announced between Paul, second son of Mr and Mrs W.A. Collin, of Maidenhead, Berkshire, and Philippa, only daughter of Dr and Mrs J.G.P. Williams, of Bourne End, Buckinghamshire.

Mr A.N.B. Dallas and Miss J.B. Hitchings
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr K.B. Dallas, of Parsons Green, London, and Mrs A. Dallas, of Shepperton, Surrey, and Julia, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.W. Hitchings, of South Godstone, Surrey.

Dr A.G. Goodman and Ms S.M. Whisker
The engagement is announced between Andrew, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Edward Goodman, of Knowle, West Midlands, and Sharon, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Yoxall, of Co Antrim, Northern Ireland.

Mr S.M. Jackson and Miss D.S. Jones
The engagement is announced between Stephen, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Jackson, of Hawkeley, Essex, Diana, daughter of Mr and Mrs Lewis Jones, of Sutton Coldfield.

Mr A.P. McC. Nightingale and Miss F.M. McCulloch
The engagement is announced between Alexander, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Nightingale, of Cranbury, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian McCulloch, of Inverness.

Captain R.P.P. Prichard and Miss C.A. Slessor
The engagement is announced between Rupert Rowland Playfair Prichard, The Parachute Regiment, son of Mr and Mrs F.H. Prichard, of Oxford, and Catherine Ann, daughter of Group Captain and Mrs J.A.C. Slessor, of Burkhams, Alton.

Mr M.J.P. Sanders and Miss V.C. Withers
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of the Rev G.L. and Mrs Sanders, of Great Waltham, Essex, and Verity, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs R.G. Withers, of Kings Norton, Birmingham.

Marriages

Professor M.D.I. Chisholm and Mrs J.C. Shackleton
The marriage took place in Cambridge, on Saturday, December 13, of Professor Michael Chisholm and Mrs Judith Shackleton (née Murray).

Mr A. Jardine and Miss S.J.C. Crocker
The marriage took place on Thursday, December 11, in Blackburn, between Mr Alex Jardine and Miss Sarah Crocker.

Mr R.A. Knox and Miss A.L. Stafford Charles
The marriage took place on December 13, 1986, at Christ Church, Chelsea, between Mr Robert Knox, The Royal Anglian Regiment, only son of Mr and Mrs T.C.S. Knox, and Miss Lucy Stafford Charles, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs M.J. Stafford Charles. The Rev Niall Weir officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Andrew and Lucy Houchin and Miss Finella Stanford Charles. Mr Steven Langley was best man.
A reception was held at the Naval and Military Club and the honeymoon is being spent in Kenya.

OBITUARY

MR DAVID PENHALIGON
Liberal politician of good sense, charm and promise



Mr David Penhaligon, Liberal MP for Truro, who was killed yesterday in a motor accident at the age of 42, was one of the most attractive and promising among the younger figures in British politics. From a county base to which he remained loyal, and which he consolidated, he grew into a national figure with an increasing grasp of national problems.

His style was delightfully fresh, humorous and unassuming. In Parliament he was very well liked, and was gaining stature, but it was missing Parliament that he was most effective as a spokesman. Above all, he excelled on radio and television, and his cheerful, sensible, down-to-earth comments will be missed by millions.

His death is a cruel loss to the Liberal Party and the Alliance, whose cause he represented as persuasively as anyone, and more persuasively than most.

David Charles Penhaligon was born on June 6, 1944, D-Day, and educated at Truro School and Cornwall Technical College.

His family background was apolitical, but he developed radical instincts while quite young. This may have been something to do with what he saw of the socially deprived families who formed a proportion of the tenants of the caravan site his father owned on the outskirts of Truro. In any event, he was an early recruit to the Liberal ranks, joining the Young Liberals while still at school.

There he was not greatly noted, except for an affable nature. A place whose schoolboy general elections always had the Cornish Nationalist candidate far ahead of the Liberals, for the pickings left by the two major parties, offered little scope for his germinating political talent.

At Cornwall Technical College he took his diploma in engineering, and in 1962 joined the firm of Holman Bros in Camborne. There he was head of a research and development department.

He and his wife lived above the village post office at Chacewater, where she was sub-postmistress. He did not attempt to become a local councillor, but always had his eye on Parliament and worked hard to build up the Truro constituency party.

His first attempt was in 1970 at Totnes, South Devon, where he trailed Conservative and Labour. Next he contested Truro in the first of the general elections of 1974, when a supposedly safe Conservative eluded his grasp by 2,561 votes. At the second



election of that year, in October, he won it by 464 votes.

During his first Parliament he showed a marked lack of enthusiasm for the Lib-Lab pact and in 1978 single-handedly delayed a bill promoted by Mr Benn and the Energy Department to reorganise the electricity supply system, pleading the necessity to be absent from the House because his daughter was up from the country.

He acted as Liberal Parliamentary spokesman on employment from 1976 to 1981. When the Bullock Report on industrial democracy was published in 1977 he strongly opposed the idea that directors should be elected by trade union members only.

From the first he gave proof of being an excellent constituency Member, never missing an opportunity to champion local interests. In the 1979 election he was rewarded by converting his slender initial majority into one of 8,708.

At the 1980 Liberal Assembly at Blackpool he spoke against a proposal that the party should go for a non-nuclear defence policy. He asked those supporting it if they wanted no nuclear capacity on British soil, and when they replied "yes" asked them the further question, did they want the United States to have none as well? When they again chanted "yes", he commented "Then you are advocating surrender". His intervention undoubtedly helped to swing the vote against the non-nuclear proposal.

The following year, at Llandudno, he spoke against a motion opposing the siting of cruise missiles in Britain. Professor E. P. Thompson was, he said, disappointed that the Russians had not stopped installing SS20s, because, if they had, the British and American governments could have been persuaded not to have cruise. "I am sure he is right", said Penhaligon, "but they haven't stopped installing them. Don't vote for this motion until they do". This time his plea was not heeded.

He married, in 1968, Annette Lidgley. She survives him with their son and daughter.

MR COLIN MACKENZIE

Mr Colin Mackenzie, CMG, LLD, scholar, aesthete, soldier and industrialist, died on December 21. He was 88.

Colin Hercules Mackenzie was born on October 5, 1898. He was educated at Eton and King's College, Cambridge, where he was senior scholar, and won the Chancellor's Medal for English Verse.

During the First World War he served with the Scots Guards in France and suffered a serious wound, resulting in amputation of his left leg from the hip.

His business career was with the Glasgow cotton firm of J & F Coats which he joined as their first graduate trainee. By his early twenties he was on the board, where his outstanding intelligence made him effective in debate, and where he also showed a capacity for taking decisions.

In his wide travels for the company - with which he remained, apart from war service, until his retirement in 1958 - he became convinced that world markets could not be supplied satisfactorily from Britain alone. His greatest business achievement was to bring a sometimes reluctant board to share his belief, and the Coats mills overseas, particularly those in Asia and South America, are a lasting tribute to his flair.

His record during the Second World War, though very little known, was of real importance. When SOE decided that a separate operational unit should be set up in India, the Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, who had been a fellow director on the Coats board, suggested that Mackenzie should be given command.

The new unit, called Force 136, developed rapidly as it established political, economic and military missions in the five countries of South-East Asia Command.

Its contribution in the Burma campaign was, in one instance, vital. In the Sittang valley the lives of about 2,000 men were saved by the action of Force 136 guerrillas in preventing the Japanese from reaching Toungoo before the British 14th Army. Mackenzie was the mainspring of that preventive action, for without his efforts the guerrilla force would never have existed.

The Colonial government-in-exile had managed to persuade General Oliver Leese, commander of all land forces in SEAC, to ban the issue of arms to anyone associated

with the Burmese nationalist movement. Mackenzie would not accept the order. The unarmed Karens had suffered murderous reprisals by the Japanese the previous year for helping Force 136 agents, and Mackenzie told Moubatten, the supreme commander, that to deny arms, even for self-defence, to the Burmese partisans was to condemn them to death.

Moubatten overruled Leese's order, men and arms were dropped, and the ensuing operation held the Japanese 15th division for ten days while British troops captured Toungoo for the loss of some 60 men, though Moubatten had thought the price of its capture might be 3,000 lives.

After his retirement from Coats, Mackenzie was chairman of the Scottish committee of the Arts Council from 1962 to 1970.

In this post he used his business acumen and diplomatic skill to win for Scotland a proper share of the national allocation of funds for the arts. On his personal initiative the Western Theatre Ballet was brought to Scotland to become the now highly successful

Scottish Ballet Company. During his chairmanship the Scottish arts committee was reconstituted as the Scottish Arts Council - further evidence of his success in raising the profile of the arts in Scotland. In 1970 he was awarded an hon LLD by St Andrews.

All his life he was a collector, more especially of books and pictures. He praised and bought works by such artists as Duncan Grant and Max Ernst before they became famous.

In 1972 he and his wife left their house in Edinburgh, which had belonged to Robert Louis Stevenson, and moved to Skye. There, at Kyle House, his azaleas and rhododendrons were a great attraction. The garden was regularly open to the public, and gardening enthusiasts flocked to it from all over the world.

He also continued to entertain, in his old age, a varied host of friends, including artists and writers of the younger generation, who will miss his rare blend of intellect, charm and integrity.

He is survived by his wife, Clodagh, and their daughter.

BILL SIMPSON

Bill Simpson, who played Dr Finlay in the popular television series, *Dr Finlay's Casebook*, died on December 21, at the age of 54.

He was an actor who had the fortune to achieve perfect casting and national fame in one particular role, and the misfortune to be known almost entirely for that. His career before and after Dr Finlay was inevitably overshadowed.

Based on the stories by A. J. Cronin, *Dr Finlay's Casebook* was set in a small Scottish town in the 1920s. It drew its dramatic resonance from the interplay between Bill Simpson's young, impetuous Finlay and his older, worldly-wise colleague, Dr Cameron, played by Andrew Cruikshank.

Janet Mullen's kindly but shrewd housekeeper completed a strong trio and the series won the accolade of the "clean-up" campaigner, Mrs Mary Whitehouse, as being a fine example of wholesome family viewing.

Simpson played the part in more than 200 episodes throughout the nine-year run of the series from 1962, cleverly suggesting the mellowing of

but the comment was typical of his common sense.

The SDP was now in being and Penhaligon always favoured the Alliance, while insisting that the just interests of the Liberal Party should be upheld. As one of the "firemen" appointed to handle the sensitive issue of seats allocation, he showed the right combination of firmness and diplomacy.

In the 1979 Parliament he was Liberal spokesman, first on energy, later on industry. At the 1983 election he was returned with a five-figure majority (10,480). He had, apparently, transformed a marginal win into a safe seat.

Early in the present Parliament he argued that the Alliance parties should merge and that a leader should be elected by the joint membership. As employment spokesman again, he opposed the Government's decision to ban unions at GCHQ, while warning Liberals against opposing the laws on secondary picketing, on which he thought the Government had been right to legislate.

Appointed the Liberals' Parliamentary spokesman on Treasury matters in 1985, he had much to learn and characteristically did not pretend to a financial expertise that he did not possess. But he was learning fast, and showed his sense of responsibility in pointing out last month, with his SDP opposition number, Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, that the Alliance's current commitments were running £5 billion ahead of the cash available.

During the year September 1985 - September 1986 he was president of the Liberal Party, and as such presided over the disastrous Eastbourne Assembly at which the leadership's defence policy, agreed with the SDP, was rejected. He did not himself speak in the defence debate, and regretted afterwards that he had not intervened. His voice might conceivably have turned the scale, as it had done in 1980, though not in 1981.

Penhaligon was brought up in the Church of England, of which he remained a faithful, though relaxed, member. Despite his conviviality of spirit, he was a totalitarian.

He spoke a little Cornish, though no non-British language, and did not travel much abroad. His reading was largely confined to political books and papers. He was an avid collector of *Whittaker's Almanack* of which he had 50 or 60 volumes and topped one day to possess the complete set.

He married, in 1968, Annette Lidgley. She survives him with their son and daughter.

During his chairmanship the Scottish arts committee was reconstituted as the Scottish Arts Council - further evidence of his success in raising the profile of the arts in Scotland. In 1970 he was awarded an hon LLD by St Andrews.

All his life he was a collector, more especially of books and pictures. He praised and bought works by such artists as Duncan Grant and Max Ernst before they became famous.

In 1972 he and his wife left their house in Edinburgh, which had belonged to Robert Louis Stevenson, and moved to Skye. There, at Kyle House, his azaleas and rhododendrons were a great attraction.

The garden was regularly open to the public, and gardening enthusiasts flocked to it from all over the world.

He also continued to entertain, in his old age, a varied host of friends, including artists and writers of the younger generation, who will miss his rare blend of intellect, charm and integrity.

He is survived by his wife, Clodagh, and their daughter.

After *Dr Finlay* finished, Simpson went into a West End musical, *Romance*, but it closed after only five days. On television he played a veterinary surgeon in *The McKinnons* and a secret agent in the thriller series, *Scotch on the Rocks*, but neither was particularly successful.

On stage he appeared regularly in Christmas pantomimes and spent two years playing the Open University professor in a touring production of Willy Russell's *Educating Rita*.

In later years Simpson's private life tended to hit the headlines more often than his acting. His first marriage, to the actress Mary Miller, was dissolved. He then married another actress, Tracy Reed, by whom he had two daughters. This marriage ended in divorce in 1980.

TO LAUNCH YOU ON YOUR FIRST QE2 CRUISE, WE'VE PUT TOGETHER A VERY SPECIAL PACKAGE.

Perhaps you've dreamt about taking a cruise on the QE2 but that's as far as it goes. Just a dream. Because like a lot of people you probably thought a cruise on such a world-famous ship was a pleasure reserved for the very rich. That as someone who actually has to work for a living, you'd be the odd one out.

Or maybe you thought there'd be nothing to do on board except sit in a deckchair, stare at the ocean and count the seagulls. Well, if that's what you thought, a QE2 Newcomers cruise will make you think again. These cruises

to such exciting places as Madeira and Lisbon and you'll realise the value is quite outstanding.

SPECIAL ENJOYMENT
You'll find the problem on board is not how to while away the hours but rather to find enough hours to enjoy all

SPECIAL NEWCOMERS CRUISES
With four QE2 Newcomers cruises to choose from, you're spoiled for choice. May 10, Visiting Madeira and Tenerife. 7 days from £695. May 30, Visiting Lisbon and Corunna. 5 days from £485. July 20, Visiting Lisbon, Praia da Rocha, and Gibraltar. 6 days from £530. September 20, Visiting Madeira and Tenerife. 7 days from £625.

SPECIAL FREE BOOKLET
If sailing away from it all, relaxing in luxury, seeing new faces and exciting places all sounds great, why not find out more? We've produced the Newcomers Pocket Guide to Cruising to help you do just that. It's a concise booklet that will answer all those other questions you have in mind. It's available free from Cunard (telephone 01-491 3930) and at your travel agent. Or just complete the coupon below and post it to the address shown. It could launch you on the holiday of a lifetime.

SPECIAL NEWCOMERS PACKAGE
We make sure every passenger on a QE2 cruise feels special. But for Newcomers we really push the boat out. Just look at the package we've laid out - just for you:
 Free first-class rail travel to and from London/Southampton or free parking at Southampton
 Your own courier
 Tipping included
 A Newcomers' champagne party to make new friends
 A free shore excursion
 Special trouble-free check-in
 Seating with other Newcomers in the restaurants
 A duty free bottle of spirit for each adult.

What's more, even if you've already taken a cruise aboard another ship and this is your first QE2 cruise you still qualify for our special Newcomers package.

Please send me a free copy of the Newcomers Pocket Guide to Cruising.
Name: _____
Address: _____
Post Code: _____
Tel. No: _____
Post to: Cunard Brochure Services, Park Farm Road, Poolestone, Kent GY19 3DZ.

QE2 NEWCOMERS CRUISES 1987

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

BIRTHS - On Sunday December 21st 1986, The Honourable Mrs Richard Bell...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARRIAGE: BRITISH Diplomat James... with Miss... at the... on...

FOR SALE

YOU'LL BE FLOORED BY OUR PRICES AT RESISTA CARPETS

RENTALS

Keith Cardale Groves THE INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONALS

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

DISCOUNT FARES JOHNSBURGH DOULA...

WINTER SPORTS

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF us in January... WINTER SPORTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARRIAGE: BRITISH Diplomat James... with Miss... at the... on...

FOR SALE

YOU'LL BE FLOORED BY OUR PRICES AT RESISTA CARPETS

RENTALS

Keith Cardale Groves THE INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONALS

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

DISCOUNT FARES JOHNSBURGH DOULA...

WINTER SPORTS

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF us in January... WINTER SPORTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARRIAGE: BRITISH Diplomat James... with Miss... at the... on...

FOR SALE

YOU'LL BE FLOORED BY OUR PRICES AT RESISTA CARPETS

RENTALS

Keith Cardale Groves THE INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONALS

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

DISCOUNT FARES JOHNSBURGH DOULA...

WINTER SPORTS

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF us in January... WINTER SPORTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARRIAGE: BRITISH Diplomat James... with Miss... at the... on...

FOR SALE

YOU'LL BE FLOORED BY OUR PRICES AT RESISTA CARPETS

RENTALS

Keith Cardale Groves THE INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONALS

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

DISCOUNT FARES JOHNSBURGH DOULA...

WINTER SPORTS

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF us in January... WINTER SPORTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARRIAGE: BRITISH Diplomat James... with Miss... at the... on...

FOR SALE

YOU'LL BE FLOORED BY OUR PRICES AT RESISTA CARPETS

RENTALS

Keith Cardale Groves THE INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONALS

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

DISCOUNT FARES JOHNSBURGH DOULA...

WINTER SPORTS

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF us in January... WINTER SPORTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARRIAGE: BRITISH Diplomat James... with Miss... at the... on...

FOR SALE

YOU'LL BE FLOORED BY OUR PRICES AT RESISTA CARPETS

RENTALS

Keith Cardale Groves THE INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONALS

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

DISCOUNT FARES JOHNSBURGH DOULA...

WINTER SPORTS

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF us in January... WINTER SPORTS

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS BARBARAN HALL 538 8795/638... OPERA & BALLET COLISEUM S 556 5161 cc 240... THEATRES ADLPHUS 856 7511 or 240 7913...

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS BARBARAN HALL 538 8795/638... OPERA & BALLET COLISEUM S 556 5161 cc 240... THEATRES ADLPHUS 856 7511 or 240 7913...

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS BARBARAN HALL 538 8795/638... OPERA & BALLET COLISEUM S 556 5161 cc 240... THEATRES ADLPHUS 856 7511 or 240 7913...

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS BARBARAN HALL 538 8795/638... OPERA & BALLET COLISEUM S 556 5161 cc 240... THEATRES ADLPHUS 856 7511 or 240 7913...

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS BARBARAN HALL 538 8795/638... OPERA & BALLET COLISEUM S 556 5161 cc 240... THEATRES ADLPHUS 856 7511 or 240 7913...

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS BARBARAN HALL 538 8795/638... OPERA & BALLET COLISEUM S 556 5161 cc 240... THEATRES ADLPHUS 856 7511 or 240 7913...

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS BARBARAN HALL 538 8795/638... OPERA & BALLET COLISEUM S 556 5161 cc 240... THEATRES ADLPHUS 856 7511 or 240 7913...

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS BARBARAN HALL 538 8795/638... OPERA & BALLET COLISEUM S 556 5161 cc 240... THEATRES ADLPHUS 856 7511 or 240 7913...

TUESDAY DECEMBER 23 1986

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1286.1 (+14.0) FT-SE 100 1652.2 (+20.0) Bargains 30012 (31646) USM (Datastream) 129.43 (+0.55) THE POUND US Dollar 1.4420 (+0.0125) W German mark 2.8508 (-0.0221) Trade-weighted 68.5 (-0.1)

Yule Catto fleshes out £17m bid

Yule Catto, the industrial chemicals, specialist building products and plantations business, yesterday published its offer document for Barrow Hepburn the industrial holding company which is chaired by Professor Roland Smith. Yule Catto announced a £17.3 million bid on December 12 which was rejected by the Barrow Hepburn board. It is bidding one new convertible preference share of 100p plus 108p in cash for every four Barrow Hepburn shares. This values the bid at 52p a share.

Firth fillip

Interim pretax profits of G M Firth (Holdings) in the half year to September 30 leapt by 34 per cent to £1.4 million on turnover up 19 per cent to £28 million. The dividend is raised by 0.05p to 0.5p net. Times, page 19

Profits slump

Interim pretax profits at Dominion International slumped 8 per cent to £4.6 million on turnover up 55 per cent to £39 million for the six months to September 30. The net dividend of 2.5p was unchanged. Times, page 19

£4m buyout

Guidehouse, the capital raising group, has financed a £4.1 million management buy-out of James Crosby, a leading housebuilder in the North-west. Midland Bank is providing debt finance of about £3.1 million.

Business chief

Dr Theophilus de Azeredo Santos of Brazil has been elected president of the International Chamber of Commerce for next year and 1988. Mr Peter Wallenberg of Sweden is vice-president.

Stake sale

Cadbury Schweppes Australia is selling its 40 per cent shareholding in Oasis Industries in New Zealand to ID Nathan for NZ\$26 million (£9.3 million).

£55m bid

Panfida Capital, a subsidiary of the Sydney-based investment group Panfida Ltd, has made a £55 million bid for "Investing in Success" Equities, the British investment trust.

Offer talks

Standard Securities, the property company, is in talks which could lead to an expansion of its capital resources and an offer for the company.

Table with 3 columns: Market, Price, Change. Includes Wall Street, Dow Jones, Nikkei Dow, etc.

MARKET SUMMARY

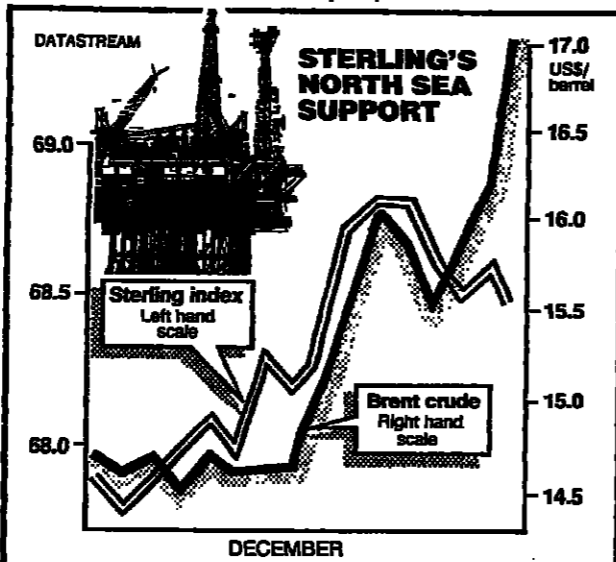
Table with 2 columns: Market, Price. Includes Stock Markets, Interest Rates, Currencies.

Table with 2 columns: Market, Price. Includes Main Price Changes, Gold, North Sea Oil.

Brent touches \$18 a barrel Crude oil price starts to climb

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The world oil price started its expected upward climb yesterday in the wake of the agreement by Opec to limit output and set a fixed price of \$18 for its oil. However, the consumer should still benefit from cheap petrol and from cheaper home heating oil for some weeks as oil companies use up stocks they built up while prices were low. In addition most Western governments used the excuse of cheaper crude oil to raise the excise duty on oil products and will be reluctant to pass on any price rises which could be seen as inflationary. Price increases at the petrol pumps are inevitable - almost



all of the leading oil companies have been waiting for an increase in Opec prices to put up prices. But the size of stocks held by the companies and by governments means that price rises should be delayed. Petrol prices, the most visible effect of Opec policies, have been kept down in Britain in the past six months by intensive forecourt competition between the oil companies. At present, demand is at its lowest and the big three in Britain - Esso, Shell and BP - are reluctant to take the lead in raising prices. North Sea Brent crude was traded yesterday at above \$18 a barrel for the first time in almost a year and some traders are predicting that the \$20 barrel is likely in January. The key to firmer prices is Opec's ability to maintain its present fragile unity and keep output to its newly agreed figure of 15.8 million barrels a day. An \$18 barrel would help Britain's oil revenues as well as those of poorer countries

Opec deal lifts market

The Opec agreement helped to produce higher share prices and a strong rally in government bonds. But the pound, surprisingly, showed little benefit from the prospect of \$18 a barrel oil prices. The sterling index fell 0.1 to 68.5. The weekend deal in Geneva, Gallup poll results showing the Conservatives 8.5 points ahead of Labour, and news from the CBI of pay settlements at a 10-year low, encouraged the financial markets yesterday. The FT 30-share index rose by 14.0 points to close at 1,286.1. Sterling's rise was, however, short-lived. The index, rising to 68.9 at 9am, ended at 68.5, pulled down by sterling's fall against the mark. The pound rose 93 points to close at \$1.4420 but dropped by more than two pence to DM2.8533. Dealers said markets were thin and that the pound's fall against European currencies reflected the strength of the mark against the dollar.

Hillsdown puts £8m into coal

By Cliff Feltham

Hillsdown Holdings, the acquisitive food and furniture group, hopes to strike a rich profit seam from its latest investment - in a coal mining group. The company is pumping £8.7 million into Anglo United Development Corporation, the country's biggest independent producer of open-cast coal, in return for a 29.9 per cent stake. Anglo United shares jumped 3p to 30p, compared with the 25p being paid by Hillsdown for its new shares. Mr Harry Solomon, joint chairman of Hillsdown, said: "This is a one-off deal, and it is certainly not a prelude to taking control. Nuclear power is out of favour, and there are all sorts of investment problems with oil."

Hillsdown is a big user of energy - its annual bill is £30 million - and there could be scope for buying some coal. Anglo is keen to break into retailing, and Hillsdown's chain of 200 builders' merchants could provide outlets for the move. Anglo United is headed by Mr David McErlain, aged 38, who said last night: "The tie up with Hillsdown gives us the financial muscle to move into coal trading possibly by organic growth or by acquisition."

PCW delay expected

Lloyd's insurance market is unlikely to make an offer to settle the PCW affair before the end of next month at the earliest, according to a letter yesterday to names on PCW syndicates. Sir Ian Morrow, chairman of AUA3, the agency managing the loss-making syndicates, said the complexity of the issues makes it unlikely that even preliminary details of such an offer could be ready earlier. He hoped a resolution would be achieved in the first few months of next year.

Lloyd's and AUA3 had reached agreement on principles on which a settlement could be based, he said, but other important matters remained to be settled. He gave details of the standstill agreement on American litigation secured last week. "We have obtained, with the assistance of the 1985 PCW names committee and their advisers, a standstill agreement to prevent claims, which might otherwise be brought against potential defendants in the US, from becoming time-barred."

DTI to end inquiry this week

By Colin Narborough

The unprecedented investigation by outside inspectors into alleged leaks of market-sensitive information by civil servants could be completed by Christmas, according to Whitehall sources yesterday. This would relieve the Government of the embarrassing task of having to investigate the officials trusted with keeping business competition fair. Only weeks after naming inspectors to look into possible insider dealing in City firms, Mr Paul Channon,

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, announced last Thursday the appointment of two outside inspectors to investigate allegations that privileged information on merger decisions was being leaked by officials of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Mergers and Monopolies Commission, or the Office of Fair Trading. Odd movements in share prices close to announcements of merger rulings were widely attributed to inside information being passed on by civil servants to market operators. This was believed to have triggered Mr Channon's action. The DTI was yesterday unwilling to confirm or deny reports that a young woman employed at the DTI had passed privileged information to her brother, a solicitor, who used it for share dealings. In line with the official stonewalling since the probe was announced, the department declined to give any details of the progress or origins of the investigations. From the outset, the Government is believed to have had a good idea where to look for leaks.

Rent-a-satellite service for UK companies Transatlantic round table

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

Mr Bruce Fireman, the investment banker, will next month launch a rent-a-satellite scheme for British public companies to put their case to an American investment analyst. For about £39,000 an hour Mr Fireman's European Financial Network will link British managers with American institutions, using a two-way television link. He said that the price compares favourably with sending executives to America on Concorde flights for days of traditional road-show presentations. Mr Fireman has still to sign up his first customer, but he is sufficiently confident to have backed it entirely from his own funds. He declined to disclose the size of his investment. Mr Fireman described the plan as akin to an analyst's conference held on the day that a company announces its financial results - with the audience 3,000 miles away. He said: "American investors need to be told exactly the same information as Euro-



Bruce Fireman: he will charge £39,000 an hour

pean shareholders. Right now, all they've got is what's on the screen first thing in the morning. "Using this service, they can be approached directly. They can watch the presentation, pick up a telephone on their desk, call a New York number and put their question to management. At the price - £500 per investor, it is nothing."

The concept has already been proved in America, where more than 150 com-



Sir Isaac: at the peak of his power in 1970

Sir Isaac made life president of GUS

By Teresa Poole

Sir Isaac Wolfson, the founder of Great Universal Stores, is to step down as joint chairman of the mail order, retail and finance group. Aged 89, he is to become honorary life president. The new chairman will be Sir Isaac's son, Lord (Leonard) Wolfson, aged 59, who is joint chairman and managing director. The assistant managing directors, Mr Harold Bowman and Mr A Trevor Spittle, will become joint deputy chairmen. Sir Isaac, who lives in Israel, has been unwell, and has had little involvement in the running of the company for some time. He was sole chairman for 38 years. Mr Bowman said: "His new appointment is a mark of respect for his contribution to the company."

Three divisional managing directors have also been appointed from the board, formalizing for the first time the divisional structure of the company. Mr Richard Pugh is to be managing director of a catalogue and mail order division; Mr William Hender managing director of a financial services division; Mr Stanley Peacock managing director of the Burberry division; and Mr Eric Barnes director of retailing and business information services. Mr Robert Barraclough, who is nearly 70, is to retire. The City was yesterday uncertain how to interpret the changes at GUS. Mr Dan Bunting, retail analyst at Scrimgeour Vickers, the broker, said: "This is part of a long, slow evolution which one day may see a transition to a less cautious, more outgoing, more aggressive management style."

In 1955 Sir Isaac founded the Wolfson Foundation for the advancement of health, education and youth activities. Comment, page 19

US on course for 3% growth, says OECD

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

United States growth should shortly accelerate to about 3 per cent a year and stay at that level for the next 18 months, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development says in its annual report on the country's prospects. Inflation in the US is not expected to show any significant increase. The forecast is for a 3.2 per cent rise in the gross national product deflator in the first half of 1988, over the corresponding period of next year, little changed from the present 3.1 per cent, rate of increase. The report adds: "Contrary to developments in past cyclical upturns, inflation is projected to remain relatively subdued, while capacity constraints are unlikely to pose a serious threat to the recovery."

The report examines the impact of the major influences on the US economy both this year and next. On the assumption of oil prices at \$15 a barrel, lower oil prices will provide a boost equivalent to 0.4 per cent of gross national product next year, after a 0.3 per cent boost next year. The rise in the stock market, which has added \$450 billion to net household wealth, is estimated to provide an even bigger boost - 0.5 per cent next year, after 0.4 per cent this.

The effects of the lower dollar are mixed, improved trade performance partly offset by inflationary pressures. The net effect is a 0.4 per cent GNP boost next year, after a 0.1 per cent contractionary influence this year. Finally, the reduction in the budget deficit, assuming implementation of the Balanced Budget Act, is contractionary by 0.6 per cent of GNP in next year. The deficit has had an expansionary influence, equivalent to 0.25 per cent of GNP, this year.

The report adds: "Contrary to developments in past cyclical upturns, inflation is projected to remain relatively subdued, while capacity constraints are unlikely to pose a serious threat to the recovery."

But the Paris-based industrialized countries' club, predicts that the large current account deficit will persist. It predicts a painfully slow reduction in the deficit from \$69.25 billion in the second half of this year, to \$66.75 billion in the first half of 1988.

The deficit has had an expansionary influence, equivalent to 0.25 per cent of GNP, this year.

Job losses avoided

The OECD, in an examination of the workings of the labour market in the United States, concludes that flexibility has helped to counter the potential job losses resulting from the current account deficit. It says: "It cannot be concluded that the current deficit has resulted in an excessive destruction of jobs."

geographical mobility of labour and real wage flexibility. In periods of high inflation there was less tendency among wage bargainers in the US to match inflation. As a result of these factors, with a lower degree of unionization, the labour market is far less segmented than in Europe. It is far easier to move between unemployment and work than in Europe, where the unemployed can quickly become "outsiders," and find themselves disadvantaged. The OECD challenges the popular view that employment growth in the United States has occurred because individuals have been forced into low productivity jobs.

Since 1970, 30 million net jobs have been created in the United States, with 10 million of these in the latest recovery. This compares with no net job gains in Europe. The OECD says that this is because the job market in the US is the most flexible among the industrialized countries. This shows up in greater

It is far easier to move between unemployment and work than in Europe, where the unemployed can quickly become "outsiders," and find themselves disadvantaged. The OECD challenges the popular view that employment growth in the United States has occurred because individuals have been forced into low productivity jobs.

Since 1970, 30 million net jobs have been created in the United States, with 10 million of these in the latest recovery. This compares with no net job gains in Europe. The OECD says that this is because the job market in the US is the most flexible among the industrialized countries. This shows up in greater

It is far easier to move between unemployment and work than in Europe, where the unemployed can quickly become "outsiders," and find themselves disadvantaged. The OECD challenges the popular view that employment growth in the United States has occurred because individuals have been forced into low productivity jobs.

Loan rates hit index

The longer leading index for the economy fell last month, its fourth successive monthly decline. The index, which forecasts turning points in the economy a year ahead, was pulled down by firmer interest rates and lower share prices. Last month, the longer leading index stood at 100.9 (1980 = 100), compared with 102.2 in October. The shorter leading index edged up slightly in October and the coincident index rose from 92.1 in September to 92.4 in October. Normally, this combination

of messages from the cyclical indicators would point to a situation in which the economy was at present recovering, giving way to a downturn next year. However, officials said that the cyclical indicators remained difficult to interpret and did not provide any clear guide to trends in the economy in the coming months. Movements in the coincident index do support the view that there was a pause in economic activity for about 12 months between the middle of last year and mid-1986.

Advertisement for STRATTON INVESTMENT TRUST plc, including details of share offerings and contact information for Cazenove & Co.

WALL STREET

Shares in early retreat

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street shares retreated slightly in early trading yesterday as the market took the opportunity to digest last Friday's broad advance and record volume.

Oil issues reacted positively to news of an Opec agreement on production cuts but the agreement fuelled inflation worries in the bond market.

The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 2.53 to 1,926.32 at one stage when the transport average was down 5.57 to 830.31 and the utilities indicator down 1.39 to 210.67. The 65 stocks average declined 2.73 to 751.99.

The broader Standard & Poor's composite index lost 1.30 to 248.39 while the New York Stock Exchange composite index slipped 0.78 to 141.87.

Table with columns for stock symbols and prices. Includes AMR, ASA, Allied Signal, etc.

Fears of isolation from world economic community

Make friends with other nations, Japanese told

From David Watts, Tokyo

Japan is in danger of isolating itself from the rest of the world economic community, the Japanese foreign minister, Mr Tadashi Kuranari said yesterday.

He added: "We must try to survive as a country that is indispensable to the rest of the world."

"To that end we must continue to be modest, we must maintain humility and continue to exchange opinions with various countries around the world, listening to the opinions of everyone, even if some opinions seem minor to us."

The question of Japan's isolation is one that constantly haunts its leaders - a feeling that it is in the world but not of it.



Mr Kuranari: "We must listen to other opinions"

And the question has been re-opened by friction with Europe over taxes on whisky and wines and the perennial trade problems with the United States.

Another factor is Herr Helmut Schmidt's statement that Japan did not have close friends on whom it could call even in Asia. This desire to gain friendships apparently will not influence British demands for removal of discriminatory whisky taxes.

Japan has hinted that it cannot remove grading systems which discriminate against Scotch in one swoop.

Mr Kuranari, speaking to the Japan Press Club, confirmed that the best offer when the details are finalized this week, will be removal of

United Nations Security Council.

It is seeking to break out of its hierarchical attitude towards other countries which dictates a policy in which the Japanese foreign ministry responds on the basis of a country's status.

Japan needed 103 votes to qualify and collected 107.

Mr Kuranari said: "This is something we should reflect on. However small a country is we must respond to that country and try and gain an understanding of Japan from the smallest of countries to try and keep them on our side, to keep them as our friends."

"How many countries around the world support Japan? That is a question, so we must try harder and harder."

Lucas boosts industry in N Ireland

By Robert Rodwell

The manufacturing industry in Northern Ireland yesterday received its second boost in eight days from British industry.

Lucas Industries is to spend £4 million to expand its Lucas Stability Electronics factory at Antrim. The investment will create 200 new jobs and will mean a transfer of production work from the mainland. Half the vacancies will become available over the next 12 months.

The Antrim plant will make a new range of silicon chip-based components developed by the corporate Research and Development Centre in Birmingham. Initially there will be small-scale production of these components at its vehicle plant in Birmingham.

The news encourages cautious confidence that, at long last, the much needed upswing for Northern Ireland's eroding manufacturing base is underway.

The silicon-chip production operation, the first for the Province, will make chip-based surge suppressors which protect sensitive electronic systems from lightning, nuclear radiation and static electricity.

Dr Kevin Hawkins, a Lucas Industries spokesman, said: "The suppressors have their main applications in the telecommunications and avionics markets and do not fit naturally into the vehicle context. We decided, therefore, to transfer the work from Bir-



John McAllister: in talks with other companies

mingham to Antrim. It is one of our industrial system group factories and is more closely attuned to the specialist market."

Mr Andrew Little, director and general manager of Stability Electronics, said the US, Germany and Italy were potential markets. He added that world demand was worth about £40 million a year. His plant would aim to capture 10 per cent.

Mr John McAllister, chief executive of the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board, said the board's "case workload" was at its highest level for some years. It was negotiating a number of projects with other electronics manufacturers. Mr Peter Viggers, junior minister for industry at the NID, was confident that 1987 would be a much brighter year economically for Northern Ireland than the past several years.

Fund planned to help Third World

From Our Correspondent Tokyo

Japan and the World Bank are in talks about setting up a special fund to channel some of Tokyo's huge trade surpluses to Third World countries.

It is hoped that the World Bank would draw about \$375 million (£265 million) from Japanese institutions and a \$37.5 million from the Japanese government in the first year, beginning next April. This is the response of Mr

Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, to world criticism of his country's trade surpluses.

The plan would run for three years and be worth a total of \$2 billion. It would be the first time that the Japanese

government has given money directly to the World Bank.

Japanese institutions provide \$1.87 billion of World Bank funds every year.

Japan's world-wide trade surplus could reach \$80 billion this year.

Marchant to buy PR firm

Holmes & Marchant, the sales promotion and graphic design company, is buying Biggs Communications, a public relations and advertising group, for a maximum £6 million.

In the year to March 31 Biggs of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, made pre-tax profits of £400,000 on turnover of £6.8 million.

The price, to be paid in stages, and in shares will depend on profits. It will be equivalent to 11 times taxed earnings for the three years to September 30, 1989.

BET buys £11m US scaffolding company

By Alison Eadie

BET, the industrial services group, yesterday announced the \$16 million (£11 million) acquisition of Werner Enterprises, a private Georgia-based scaffolding company.

The acquisition has been financed through a bought deal arranged by Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank. Goldman yesterday placed 2.6 million new BET shares at 432p, against a market price of about 436p.

Mr Neil Ryder, a BET director, described the financing arrangement as a good deal for the company which protected the small shareholder.

Bowater buys Staybrite

Bowater Industries, the paper, packaging and building group, is expanding its home improvements division with the acquisition of Staybrite Windows, of Coventry.

Bowater is paying an initial £3 million in shares, and a further sum of up to £3.5 million will be payable over the next two years, depending on results.

Staybrite made an operating profit of just under £1 million in the past year on turnover of £13 million. Bowater's other main home improvement company is ADP Insulations, acquired in 1985.

APPOINTMENTS

British Alcan Aluminium: Lord Peyton of Yeovil has been elected non-executive chairman. Mr David Morton joins the board.

TSB Scotland: Mr Eric Wilson will succeed Mr Ian H Macdonald as chief general manager on March 31. Mr Wilson will also become a director of TSB Group.

Waterford Glass Group: Mr Brian Patterson becomes group director of management and corporate development from April 1.

Samuel Montagu & Co: Mr Richard Gillingham, Mr John Neary, Mr Jeremy Prescott, Mr Tom Quinn, Mr John Rickards, Mr Mossman Roseche, Mr Jeffrey Urwin and Mr Arthur Wadsworth become executive directors.

Brown Shipley: Mr Robin Owens is to join Medens Trust as managing director.

Sale Tilney: Mr J B Buchanan, Mr J H Cahill and Mr R T D Stott have been appointed directors.

Charterhouse: Mr David Parish has joined the board as director of planning.

Connell Estate Agents: Mr David Wood has become finance director.

Bank of England: Sir Colin Ross becomes a director for four years on March 1.

Thorn EMI: Mr Andrew Marsh has been made business development director at Thorn EMI Business Communications.

Ocean Transport & Trading: Mr Nicholas Barber becomes chief executive on January 1. Mr Peter Marshall becomes non-executive chairman at the annual meeting in May.

BSS Group: Mr P Donovan and Mr A Milne are now executive directors.

Clarke Hooper: Mr Peter Nugent is a director from January 1. Mr Hans Thykier is now a director of the Foreign and Colonial Atlantic Fund and the Foreign and Colonial Oriental Fund.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns for company names and share prices. Includes Equities, Recent Issues, and London Traded Options.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table with columns for company names and option prices. Includes Call and Put options for various companies.

COMPANY NEWS

to apply for a block or blocks. If successful and a licence is awarded, provision will be made to secure appropriate financial backing for the company.

ACCEPTANCES: Acceptances have been received for 2,479,963 shares (93.7 per cent) under the rights issue.

OPTOMETRICS (USA): Figures in \$000 for six months to September 30. Turnover 1,240.2, pretax profit 37 (65), 9 (21). Earnings per share 0.28c (0.44). The company has received five contracts for projects to develop optical systems for a variety of applications.

DELMAR GROUP: The £65 million purchase for £300,000 Weibrock Holdings whose principal operating subsidiary is Weibrock, which

COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL SERVICES: The company is to acquire a strategic stake in Hunziker Associates (HUSA), the financial services group of Geneva. The agreement marks the launch of a joint venture between HUSA and CFS overseas subsidiaries. A 23 per cent stake is being acquired for SF713,000 (£293,000). HUSA

BAKERS ESTATES: The company has acquired Hippodrome House, Aldershot, Hampshire, from Kleinwort Benson (Trustees) for £2,305,000. To be satisfied by £1,075,000 cash and the balance by the issue of 9,111,111 ordinary shares at 131.2p.

NATIONAL HOME LOANS CORPORATION: The tender panel loan facility, arranged by SG Warburg last month, is to be increased from £200 million to £300 million. The company says that the increase has been possible because the level of participation has considerably exceeded original expectations.

THE CONTINENTAL & INDUSTRIAL TRUST: Transatlantic Insurance Holdings has increased its holding to 15,078,467 ordinary shares (89.01 per cent).

FLETCHER DENNY SYSTEMS: Interim dividend 1p. Figures in £000 for six months to September 30. Turnover 4179 (2836), pretax loss 159 (161) loss, no tax (same), loss per share 2.5p (same).

THE M AND G EUROPEAN & GENERAL FUND: Interim income units 0.2p (0.3), payable February 13.

THE M AND G GENERAL TRUST FUND: Final for 1986 9.562p (8.223), payable March 1.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Table with columns for currency and deposit terms. Includes Dollar, Euro, and other currencies.

BULLION

Table with columns for gold and silver prices. Includes Gold 399.50-394.00 and Silver 5.37-5.39.

EGGD

Table with columns for EGGD rates. Includes 3 month Sterling, 6 month Sterling, etc.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table with columns for company names and option prices. Includes First Dealings, Last Dealings, Last Declaration, For Settlement.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table with columns for company names and future prices. Includes Three Month Sterling, Six Month Sterling, etc.

J W SPEAR & SONS: Turnover for the second half of 1986 failed to reach the level anticipated. For the year it will be marginally ahead of 1985. Since product development and promotional costs were geared to support the assumed higher turnover, the pretax profit for 1986 will be materially lower than in 1985. It is intended to maintain the dividend for 1986 at 6p.

HUMBERSIDE ELECTRONIC CONTROLS: Clevens Investments has bought 2 million shares from Mr P Mcmaster (£5.1 per cent).

WCBS GROUP: The company has acquired Alan Passcoe Associates. The first payment will be £1.7 million of which £1 million will be cash and £700,000 will be met by the issue of 134,610 ordinary shares. A debenture will be issued to pay the last tranche up to a maximum of £5.75 million, dependent on future profits.

GESTETNER HOLDINGS: AFP has subscribed for 10 million new Gestetner ordinary capital shares at 140p a share. AFP has also subscribed nil paid for £11.6 million nominal of 7 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock 2001.

READICUT INTERNATIONAL: Mr Paul Channon, The Trade and Industry Secretary, has decided not to refer to the Monopolies Commission the proposed acquisition of F Drake (Fibres).

BULMER & LUMB (HOLDINGS): The Allied Textile agreed offer document includes an estimate by the board of the consolidated profit on ordinary activities before tax of the Allied group of £7.5 million for the year to September 30, (£6.4). The offer document includes also the terms of an agreed offer for the 3.5 per cent Bulmer preference shares. Holders of these are being offered 60p a share, which values the preference share capital at £60,000. A loan note alternative will also be available on the basis of 60p in nominal value of unsecured loan notes of Allied for each Bulmer preference share.

CARLTON COMMUNICATIONS: The company is acquiring Gordon Enterprises of New York. The first payment is \$6.2 million (£4.33) cash. An additional sum of up to \$14.8 million is payable if specified income levels are achieved in each of the years to September 30, 1991.

BURNS-ANDERSON: The chairman has written to shareholders urging them to ignore the offer from Dudley.

SHEFFIELD BRICK: The listing of the shares, temporarily suspended on November 3, has been cancelled after shareholders' approval of the re-organization proposals. A rule

520 notice has been issued, admitting a new company, Benson SBG, to the official list.

ROTHMANS INTERNATIONAL: Rothmans and Philip Morris are planning an amalgamation of their subsidiaries, Rothmans of Pall Mall and Benson & Hedges (Canada), as Rothmans, Benson & Hedges has been completed.

GABANINTHA GOLD DEPOSIT: Southern Ventures said that tentative exploration of the Gabanintha gold deposit near Meekatharra, Western Australia, has produced "significant intersections" on the Canterbury prospect.

THE BANKERS' INVESTMENT TRUST: Fourth interim dividend 1.06p, making 2.86p. One-for-one capitalization proposed. Figures in £ for year to October 31. Total income 4,867,648 (£4,534,633). Debenture and interest payable 970,129 (£70,330), administrative expenses 499,278 (£455,368), tax 1,102,660 (£1,091,220), revenue after all charges and tax 2,935,581 (£2,117,715), earnings per share 2.90p (£2.67), net asset value after deducting prior charges at 165.1p (£118.6). The board forecasts a mild increase in next year's dividend of 7 per cent.

BRAITHWAITE GROUP: No interim dividend. Figures in £ for six months to September 30. Turnover 4,497,007 (£4,042,221), profit on ordinary activities 242,491 (17,400), interest 136,423 (£7,379), loss on discounted businesses nil (£29,182), operating profit 106,068 (£65,553), profit before tax 106,068 (£65,553), tax 4,264 (£3,000), extraordinary credit nil (£17,153), earnings per share 4.83p (£3.07). The board says that the outlook for the current year is favourable, and that further progress on the road to full recovery seems assured.

READICUT INTERNATIONAL: Applications to purchase 14,319,171 new ordi-

nary shares have been received - about 68.4 per cent of the qualifying shareholders' entitlement. The shares not applied for will be retained by the institutions, say those which they were conditionally placed, subject to completion of the acquisition of Drake, expected on December 22.

WELLMAN: The directors are unable to recommend the payment of a final or preference dividend until reserves are rebuilt. Figures for six months to September 30. Turnover 18,017 (£19,913), pretax profit 663 (£42), tax credit 11 (charge) 19, extraordinary debit 22 (£70), earnings per share, net basis 4.20p (£0.77), fully diluted 2.62p (£0.47).

SMITHS INDUSTRIES: The company has reached agreement with Crest Nicholson for the acquisition by the company of Crest's wholly-owned subsidiary, J D Potter, and Camper & Nicholson's Marine Equipment. The two companies, with combined assets of about £1 million, will be integrated with the Smiths subsidiary, Kelvin Hughesway. Interim dividend 0.5p (same). Figures in £ for 26 weeks to October 31. Turnover 9,467,996 (£12,673,738), pretax profit 502,696 (£64,352), tax 175,944 (£21,740), earnings per share 1.76p (£1.95). The board says that shares are expanding and abroad are being made to European markets.

BODYCOTE INTERNATIONAL: Conditional agreement has been reached for the company to acquire 75 per cent of the issued share capital of Skelmersdale Packaging. The initial consideration will be £2.25 million, payable on completion, which will be by the issue of 870,321 new Bodycote ordinary shares and a balance of £290,909 in cash. On completion Bodycote will be granted options to buy the remaining 25 per cent of Skelmersdale in two tranches at a value to be determined by profits in the three financial years to December 31, 1988.

FISHERMEN'S PETROLEUM: The company considers that some of the Inner Moray Firth blocks offered in the tenth licensing round are "prospective", and it is negotiating to join a consortium operated by Kern-Mogee Oil (UK)

BASE LENDING RATES

Table with columns for bank names and base rates. Includes ABN, Adam & Company, BCCI, etc.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table with columns for bank names and sterling rates. Includes Argentina austra, Australia dollar, Bahrain dollar, etc.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table with columns for bank names and dollar spot rates. Includes Ireland, Singapore, Australia, etc.

Broker who is badly missed... Christopher Dunn... GILT-EDGED

(IN THE MARKET)

Broker who is badly missed

The authorities produced a testing set of money supply figures last week. Gilts buckled on news that November broad money had risen by about 1.4 per cent. But the news was good. Oil prices look to be heading upwards. Gilts rallied strongly as sterling bounced, leaving the authorities, arguably, in a state of euphoric relief.

The authorities face large problems in retaining some level of viable communication with a market whose focus of attention varies very sharply. In the old market, the dynamics were practically ceremonial. The authorities had their man on the floor in the shape of the Government Broker, the conduit between traders and the Bank.

Not only did the Government Broker help to drive prices backwards and forwards by his intervention tactics. His visible presence on the trading floor helped orient the market towards the minutiae of dealing techniques and price changes and away from concept.

But traditional structure has now been swept away. Symbolizing this change is the loss of market dominance. Dealing jargon, like "clo-clo" prices has been junked and the Government Broker has been transmogrified in the shift from a floor to a screen market. The Wedd-Ackroyd axis has been replaced by 27 market makers.

Hostile The authorities look to be doubly disadvantaged. Their ready instrument of communication with the market has gone. Meanwhile concept has shown a capacity to resurface in a shape and form which is fairly hostile. That is one reason why current yields are so high.

November monetary data illustrates this point. The net public sector contribution to EM3 was negative by some £0.8 billion, an optimal statement of what the current administration has been trying to achieve since the end of the last decade. But the market seized on the huge figure of nearly £4 billion for bank lending, and prices fell.

Traders now regard this kind of leading figure with weakening sterling because of the erosion in recent months of Britain's visible trade account and because sterling has fallen so sharply since midsummer.

Loss of ready access to the collective market unconscious may be crucial in the early months of 1987. The new gilts market has become very international very quickly and there are unresolved contradictions built into the composition of current yields.

On the one hand, German rates have risen abruptly in the run-up to Christmas. Frankfurt money market rates are close to 5 per cent, in reaction perhaps to the 10 per cent annualized growth rate in German money stock.

These developments will concern the British monetary authorities because, nationally at least, sterling and London money market rates are priced off Frankfurt.

Uncertain Conversely, gilts have tended to price off New York, with the two bond markets running in tandem and separated by traditional differentials. Uncertain trends in the oil price threaten this stable relationship. A feature of price movements in both financial centres ahead of Christmas has been the way they diverged markedly as rumour followed rumour of an Opec production agreement.

So far this week, London has benefited because in the short term oil prices may move towards \$18 a barrel. But the process could be reversed, if traders sense the production agreement is falling apart.

In essence, London is pricing off New York and Frankfurt when both financial centres are responding to domestic monetary policies which lack common ground. The Bundesbank apparently wants to put up rates while the Fed wants to see them lower. Even though it may all come right on the night for London, with oil prices continuing to firm, or the Germans deferring a mark realignment, such dual pricing means precarious equilibrium in the gilts market.

Yield prospects must remain highly volatile, not least because structural changes have robbed the authorities of easy access to a fund of goodwill among domestic players.

Christopher Dunn

GILT-EDGED

(STOCK MARKET)

Opec decision heralds seasonal shares rally

By Michael Clark

The traditional pre-Christmas rally has arrived late in the stock market this year so investors set about making the most of it yesterday dreaming of lower interest rates in the new year.

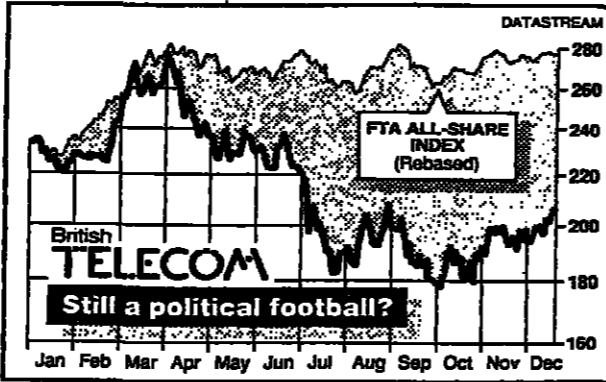
This little bit of extra festive cheer followed the decision of the ministers of the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries to cut output by 7.25 per cent to 15.8 million barrels a day during the first six months of 1987. The move immediately boosted the price of crude oil on world markets which at one stage hit \$18 a barrel.

It is hoped this will allow room for a 1 per cent reduction in British interest rates and leave scope for the Chancellor to make his proposed tax cuts.

Investors took their cue from oil shares which were quick to respond to the news with leaders like BP climbing 17p to 983p, Shell 12p to 983p, Ultramar 4p to 160p and Britoil a similar amount at 170p.

The rest of the equity market also enjoyed selective support for stores and electricals as the new long three-week Christmas account got under way with sentiment boosted by the latest opinion poll findings.

The FT index of top 30 shares closed at its best levels of the day 14.0 up at 1,266.1 while the broader based FT-



SE 100 index finished 20.0 up at 1,652.2.

Government securities also caught the scent of cheaper money with prices at the longer end of the market enjoying gains of more than £1. But the index-linked issues had to contend with small losses in reaction to Friday's announcement of an extra £600 million of Treasury 2.5 per cent index-linked 2024 being issued.

British Telecom, dubbed the "people's share" when the company came to market in November 1984, has been under a cloud this year after news of the Labour Party's commitment to re-nationalize it at the original flotation price of 130p if returned to power at the next election.

Labour's decision has effectively wiped 100p from the BT share price in recent months which, at one stage, hit a low for the year of 173p against the group's 1,500,000 shareholders with two stark choices. They could either sell their shares at a sharp discount to their true worth, or accept the Government's non-voting bonds. This would, hopefully, give them a return on their investment, but no say in how the company was run.

The weekend news that the latest opinion polls gave the Conservatives an 8 per cent lead over Labour has put

some new heart back into the shares.

Those like Kleinwort Benson claim that BT is a "buy" on fundamentals alone but warn that the price will continue to be influenced by political uncertainties.

Mr Chris Tucker, analyst at Grievecon, says: "The share price will continue to be dictated by the opinion polls until the uncertainties about the general election become clearer."

Last night the shares closed 3p higher at 209p - their best level for some months - despite going ex-dividend.

The big retailers, which spent most of last week in the doldrums, enjoyed a long-awaited rally following further evidence of another record Christmas spending spree in the high street.

Institutional support lifted English China Clays stepped up the pressure yesterday in its battle for Bryant Holdings, up 1p at 155p. ECC in its latest offer document casts doubt on the Bryant forecast of a 55 per cent pretax profits increase and wonders why no mention of it was made at the rights issue in October, when Bryant directors surrendered the rights to over 1 million shares at 90p.

Barton Group 11p to 271p and Storehouse 14p to 277p after both went ex-dividend. There was also support for Sears 3p to 120p.

ALPHA STOCKS

These prices are as at 6.45pm

Table with columns for 1986 High/Low/Company, Price Bid/Offer, Change, Gross Div, Yield, and P/E. It lists various stocks such as Allied-Lyons, ASDA-MFI, and British Telecom.

TEMPUS

Dominion troubled by its disposals

Life at Dominion International Group is not particularly easy at the moment. It is not impossible, just difficult, to realize a £25 million property portfolio and minimize exposure to energy at the bottom of the cycle while trying to expand financial services at the top.

On the property side, the group plans to release more than £25 million through disposals over a period of two years. It has sold, or has contracts to sell, a good proportion of its commercial portfolio and is withdrawing from the housing market.

The profit-over-book value of these disposals is unlikely to be more than £2 million but it will free cash for expansion elsewhere.

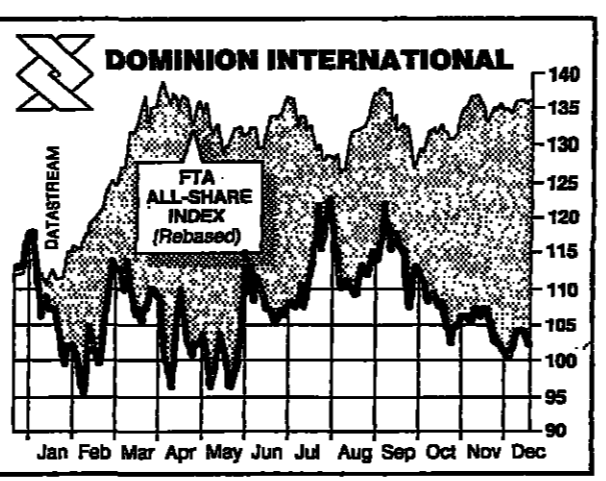
In natural resources, the core business of its 59 per cent interest in South West Resources appears to be holding up well in adverse markets but the problems at William Hunt have yet to be solved.

Dominion invested £9.9 million in 26 per cent of William Hunt, a Hong Kong commodity trading and oil services company now in financial difficulties. A recapitalization at Hunt may go ahead, but Dominion will not contribute any further capital. Instead, it will opt to see its stake reduced to just 5 per cent.

This will involve a write-off amounting to £5 or £6 million - the exact amount cannot be quantified yet.

Also to be written off this year is the first of three equal tranches of \$6 million (£4 million) in connection with the acquisition of Transnational, the US leasing company.

After all write-offs, the group's debt at the end of this financial year - March 1987 - is likely to be equal to 100 per cent of its equity. Even with this comparatively high level of gearing, the group has significant unused borrowing facilities and will be looking



to buy financial services companies in Britain for up to £10 million.

Michael Simmonds, of Credit Suisse Buckmaster & Moore, is forecasting a pretax profit for the year to March 1987 of £1.5 million, giving a p/e of 5.6. There is little downside risk but the market will want to be reassured of the extent of the strain on the balance sheet before committing itself to a higher rating.

GM Firth (Holdings)

At the interim stage, GM Firth (Holdings) shows every sign of heading for another record year for profits, despite a slight dip in steel stockholding which still accounts for about a third of the group's business.

The year started well for the steel stockholders, but a general setback in engineering affected them all adversely, although Firth seemed to suffer less than the average.

Elsewhere, the business appears to be doing well. Furniture and floorings had a particularly good first half and transport also did well.

over up 19 per cent to £28 million in the six months to September 30. Some £290,000, approximately 20 per cent of the pretax total, came from the independently quoted brewery fittings manufacturer, Porter Chadburn. This compared with a profit of £85,000 in the comparable six months.

Firth raised its stake in Porter Chadburn to 65 per cent in April 1985. In the ensuing year to March 1986, annual losses of £63,000 were transformed into profits of over £500,000, mainly due to the closure of its Bolton factory. The prospects for this business have improved considerably.

Charles Wade Steel, the recently acquired Midlands steel stockholder, made a small contribution to interim profits. This acquisition gives Firth a base from which to expand in the West Midlands and takes its stockholding turnover up to around £15 million annually.

It certainly looks like making plenty of money this year. Trading profit before tax could reach £3.2 million, putting the shares on a prospective multiple of around 10.6. The shares have underperformed the market for the last year and the rating looks undemanding.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

A low-key revolution among the Wolfsons

Great Universal Stores is not the most communicative company, though it remains one of the most consistently profitable and a favourite among investors with long memories. It has also entered a phase of change at the top - always a fascinating procedure in a major, family-controlled company which is being managed quietly, save for the noisy speculation that Sir Philip Harris is the adopted crown prince, and at a stately pace.

Characteristically, a statement yesterday of a comprehensive restructuring of the board occupied a mere three and a half lines on the Stock Exchange Topic screen.

The full text revealed the formalizing for the first time of the GUS divisional structure and the appointment of three divisional managing directors. Sir Isaac Wolfson's son, Lord (Leonard) Wolfson, who at the moment is joint chairman (with his founding father) and managing director, will become sole chairman and his father, now living in Israel, becomes honorary life president.

What this means for the company was not immediately clear to the analysts but in the market, where it is thought that one day GUS will embrace democracy, the A shares gained 12p to 1022p. The company considers that it is no longer appropriate for the chairman and

managing director to be the same person: in future, Lord Wolfson, together with two deputy chairmen, Harold Bowman and Trevor Spittle, will oversee financial and divisional results. Lord Wolfson is a fascinated and dedicated member of the House of Lords, which as time goes by will surely take up more of his time and interest. Who would then succeed him as managing director of the group is the tantalising question.

The latest changes, confirming as they do the existing responsibilities of the present members of the board, will not by themselves change the conservative and low-key GUS management style. They do, however, suggest that the family is aware of the company's perceived problems.

For shareholders, in the meantime, it is more pertinent to look at the recent interim results which showed a near 17 per cent improvement in profits to £134.4 million in the six months to the end of September. For the full year, more than £330 million is in sight, helped by the stake in Harris Queensway.

The husbandry is of a high order but not even GUS, the great pacesetter in retailing when young Isaac built his dynamic estate, can remain for ever set in its ways.

Ritblat's Euston express

The ever youthful John Ritblat, chairman of British Land, survived the falling masonry in the collapsed property boom of the early 1970s, since when his astute dealing and trading have created a multi-faceted group. The British Land of the 1980s is a large property investor and developer with industrial holdings, an interest in films (notably The Mission) and investment in hotels with the Ladbroke Group. It is a mixture, not surprisingly, the stock market finds hard to value.

Mr Ritblat's latest, £65 million deal, with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, which also understands property, involves British Land buying the other half of the 1 million sq ft Euston Centre in London to give it sole control of the asset. The company's £92 million fund-raising exercise to pay for the Euston Centre and other properties in Euston Centre Investments, and to meet outstanding payments on other portfolio purchases, increased share capital by 45 per cent and diluted the net asset value by about 25p a share. The shares may continue to suffer for the same reason.

However, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission gave its blessing to the deal yesterday. The way is now clear for British Land to assess the ECI portfolio, which was bought at a 13.6 per cent discount - considerably less than the discount at which British Land itself trades.

The Euston Centre is an ageing building which can hardly be described as a prime investment despite being fully let. It is in an area that so far has failed to attract financial conglomerates from the Square Mile which are taking space in once unthought of places - south of the Thames, for example. If British Land is to unlock any potential within the Euston Centre and offset dilution, it will have to refurbish the development and alter the lease structure to raise rental value.

This takes time. A sale to one of the new breed of so-called merchant developers, or to an owner-occupier, would convince the market that British Land could swiftly combat the dilution, leaving it with the real plums in the ECI portfolio.

Vogue House in Hanover Square and other P&O properties in Wigmore Street and Dover Street came as part of the deal. They offer tremendous scope to catch a share of the booming West End office market which is seeing rental growth almost on a par with the City as shortage of space drives banking operations further afield.

The acquisitive Mr Ritblat has left the way clear for further purchases but whether these will be property portfolios or corporate deals has yet to be revealed. The market has linked British Land, as a prospective bidder, with Great Portland Estates, a rumour he strenuously denies. In any event, any increase in share capital would hardly be welcomed by the market.

FUTURES AND OPTIONS

World still seeks an answer to the feast-and-famine problem

There may be celebrations in Brussels now that the European Economic Community (EEC) has found a way to trim the beef and butter mountains but there is little joy among the world's grain producers.

Far from becoming empty, the grain silos of Europe, North America, Australia and Argentina will probably bulge as never before next year. According to the International Wheat Council's latest report, stocks of wheat and coarse grains are likely to rise to 377 million tonnes, almost 50 per cent above the level of two years ago.

This has resulted largely from another bumper year for food output in the developed world. Global production next year is estimated at a record 1.36 billion tonnes, with stronger strains and more productive fertilizers boosting yields and negating any efforts to effect acreage reductions.

Although consumption of grains is likely to be at a record, more of it will be met from within the country of production. World trade is forecast to sink to 169 million tonnes next year, down sharply from the record 208 million just two seasons ago.

The big villains of the peace, as far as the producers are concerned, are the Russians. Over the years, Soviet crop estimates have been swallowed by the West with large grains of salt as efforts to expand production to more marginal land were dogged by inefficiencies and bad weather.

Now, in the Gorbachev era, efficiency and accountability are the watchwords from the Baltic ports to the oilfields of Siberia. Coincidence or not, Moscow last month announced it would be reaping a grain harvest of 210 million tonnes - almost 10 per cent up on last year. This is likely to result in a fall in imports of almost half to 20 million tonnes.

Furthermore, Soviet officials are trying to emphasize



Piling up: Grain mountains are growing as never before

that this is no one-hit wonder but an indication of the improved methods being used in Soviet agriculture.

Improvements to productivity will concentrate on land that is naturally fertile and has decent water supplies. No longer will wheat sprout in the field, be harvested at the wrong time, rot in storage or end up at the wrong place.

The wheat producers have not quite thrown away the salt cellars but, with prices ever falling, they are bound to take the matter seriously. The big five producers are to meet in San Diego in February to discuss the problem. The discussions should, as diplomats say, be "full and frank".

In particular, delegates from Argentina, Canada and Australia will forcibly tell the EEC and US representatives that their export and production subsidies - part of a long-running trade war between Washington and Brussels - are responsible for driving down the prices of some of their most vital exports.

Whether the five groups will have the will to do anything about the problem is questionable. It has taken years for the

north and sub-Saharan Africa by the year 2000.

Results of a study by the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) on Africa's agricultural food prospects for the next 25 years were, if anything, gloomier. Mr Edouard Saouma, the FAO's director-general, spoke of the possibility of "repeated and massive famines and food imports which could bankrupt even prosperous African countries."

Ironically, there are several African countries that have contributed to the production boom this year. According to FAO, nine Sahelian countries will have record harvests for the second year in succession and the scourge of the locusts and grasshoppers has been beaten for the time being. But a long-term solution to the literal co-existence of feast and famine seems as far away as ever.

Richard Lander

Bonn hint of interest rates fall

Bonn (Reuters) - West German interest rates may fall next year if the strong growth in central bank money supply can be slowed, Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the finance minister, said.

Herr Stoltenberg said a cut in rates could not be ruled out in 1987 because real interest rates in West Germany and in some other countries were very high.

But he said German rates could not be cut at present because the Bundesbank was understandably worried about money supply expansion.

"If the money supply development can be slowed in 1987, there may still be room (for cuts)," he said in an interview with Welt am Sonntag.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table of unit trusts with columns for Bid, Offer, Change, and Yield. Includes sections for UK Unit Trusts, Overseas Unit Trusts, and various investment categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities with columns for High, Low, Company, Bid, Offer, Change, and Yield. Lists various companies and their security details.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for High, Low, Company, Bid, Offer, Change, and Yield. Includes a line graph for Gas/Oil prices and a section for Commodities.

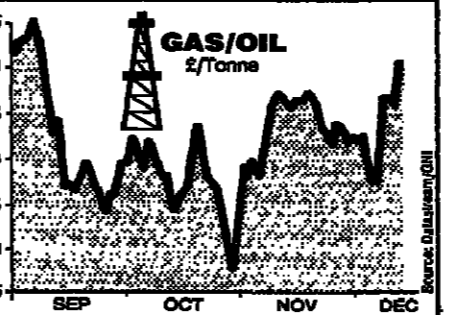


Table of commodity prices including Soyabean, Lead, Silver, and various metals. Columns include description, price, and change.

Energy futures markets have reacted in a clearly bullish manner to last weekend's Opec agreement. Forecasts are that there will be a draw down in crude oil stocks of about two million barrels per day in the first quarter of 1987. Comment by GNI.

Financial news and market commentary on the right side of the page, including mentions of 'Financial', 'Share', and 'Market'.

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	ASDA-MFI	Foodst	
2	Marks & Spencer	Drapery Stores	
3	Bulough	Industrial A-D	
4	Hanson	Industrial E-K	
5	Racal Elect	Electricals	
6	Contin	Building/Roads	
7	Hickson	Chemicals/Plas	
8	Benlon	Electricals	
9	Press	Electricals	
10	Camford Eng	Industrial A-D	
11	Redland	Building/Roads	
12	Ladbroke	Hotel/Catering	
13	Br Car Auctions	Motors/Aircraft	
14	Mowlem (John)	Building/Roads	
15	GEC	Electricals	
16	Comit	Industrial A-D	
17	Conlit	Chemicals/Plas	
18	TV-AM	Cinema/TV	
19	Scott Greenham	Industrial S-Z	
20	RAC	Building/Roads	
21	Magnet & Smith	Building/Roads	
22	Smith & Nephew	Industrial S-Z	
23	American	Chemicals/Plas	
24	Hopkinson	Industrial E-K	
25	Sycamore	Industrial S-Z	
26	Usafite	Foodst	
27	Alexander	Motors/Aircraft	
28	Halswood (James)	Chemicals/Plas	
29	Glynwed	Industrial E-K	
30	Dowry	Motors/Aircraft	
31	Sitchiff Speakman	Chemicals/Plas	
32	Quick (HU)	Motors/Aircraft	
33	Westland	Motors/Aircraft	
34	Ward White	Drapery Stores	
35	Covec TT	Motors/Aircraft	
36	Amn Energy	Oil	
37	Sovercon	Oil	
38	Accord	Newspapers/Pub	
39	Radiant Metal	Industrial L-R	
40	Kennedy Smelt	Industrial E-K	
41	Amring	Electricals	
42	Barter (Charles)	Paper/Print/Adv	
43	Rank Org	Industrial L-R	
44	Baker Perkins	Industrial A-D	

Please take account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

BRITISH FUNDS

1986 High Low Stock Price Change % Yield % Div

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1986 High	1986 Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Yield	%	Div
103	89	Each	13/4	1987	100	0	0	11.00
100	83	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
100	83	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
100	83	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
100	83	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
100	83	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
100	83	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
100	83	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
100	83	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
100	83	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1986 High	1986 Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Yield	%	Div
119	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
119	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
119	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
119	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
119	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
119	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
119	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
119	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
119	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
119	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1986 High	1986 Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Yield	%	Div
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00

UNDATED

1986 High	1986 Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Yield	%	Div
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00

INDEX-LINKED

1986 High	1986 Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Yield	%	Div
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1986 High	1986 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Yield	%	Div
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Confident start to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began yesterday. Dealings end January 9. Contango day January 12. Settlement day January 19. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E ratio are calculated on the middle price

BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Yield	%	P/E
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Yield	%	P/E
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Yield	%	P/E
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00

CINEMAS AND TV

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Yield	%	P/E
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00

DRAPERY AND STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Yield	%	P/E
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0	0	10.00

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Yield	%	P/E
117	89	Trust	10/4	1987	100	0</		

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Industrial Relations Services Labour Law Researcher

Industrial Relations Services are looking for a research officer for their twice-monthly journal, Industrial Relations Legal Information Bulletin. The successful candidate will have an interest in labour legislation and case law, an ability to write clearly and accurately for publication and, ideally, some form of legal training (degree and/or professional qualification). The job will involve writing and research; writing to tight deadlines within a small professional team; and contributing ideas and skills to developing new products. Salary will be either £13,878 or £15,420 p.a. (subject to review from 1 January 1987) depending on experience. There is also an attractive range of fringe benefits and holiday entitlement. Applications, setting out full details of your career to date and showing how you match our requirements, should reach us by Friday, 2 January and be addressed to: Edward Benson, Industrial Relations Services, 67 Maygrove Road, London NW6 2EJ.



ARTICLED CLERKS YOUNG SOLICITORS

Buttons - bright articled clerks and young solicitors are demanded by our latest Practice development plans. Our commercial list includes household names, established European and American clients and clients in tomorrow's businesses - like waste management, undersea research and computer applications - as well as commercial main-stream business. You can develop your skills and versatility in handling a varied case load in your chosen field - at the sharp end. Specific opportunities are available now in Intellectual Property, Media and Commercial work. If you would like to know more, why not come to see us in Colchester on 29th or 30th December? Call Trevor Dodwell (0206-44177) or David Church (010-322-230-6294)

ELLISON & CO
SOLICITORS
COLCHESTER HARWICH BRUSSELS

CORPORATE LAW

Bird Semple & Crawford Herron, Solicitors, Glasgow and Fyfe Ireland & Co., W.S., Edinburgh, will amalgamate on 1st May 1987. In anticipation of this and because of an increasing workload the two firms are now recruiting additional senior and junior assistants to join their corporate departments. We deal with Stock Exchange, trust, banking and investment transactions for quoted companies as well as all other non-property aspects of commercial practice, such as purchase, sale, reorganisation and financing of companies and businesses, drafting and negotiating contracts, intellectual property, receivership and liquidation. The successful applicants for the senior positions will be capable of handling a demanding but stimulating work load. They will already have relevant experience and will be capable of assuming responsibility. The other positions would suit more recently qualified solicitors with or without relevant experience but with enthusiasm and the ability to learn quickly. Full training will be given. Real opportunities exist for early career advancement in this dynamic area of practice. Assistants will have full back-up services available to them, along with the benefit of excellent working conditions. Interviews will be conducted in Edinburgh, Glasgow and London. Applicants, who may be solicitors, advocates or barristers, should apply with full career and qualification details to either of the following:

FYFE IRELAND & CO.
W.S.

Malcolm Gillies,
Bird Semple &
Crawford Herron,
Solicitors,
249 West George Street,
GLASGOW G2 4RB

Bird Semple & Crawford Herron

Andrew Cubie,
Fyfe Ireland & Co., W.S.,
27 Melville Street,
EDINBURGH
EH3 7JG

P & I CLUB International Lawyer

An able and energetic young lawyer preferably with some experience at the Bar or as a solicitor is required to handle the claims involving our shipowner members. Knowledge of charter party disputes would be a distinct advantage and languages useful. Please apply by handwritten letter with CV to:-

K.A.C. Patteson
Tindall Riley & Co.,
Southwark Towers,
32 London Bridge Street,
London, SE1 9RR

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Borough of Havant Administrative and Legal Department

SENIOR SOLICITOR

Salary up to £15,243
Havant is on the South Coast.

We need someone good to deal primarily with civil litigation and housing work (including Committee). Applicants (not necessarily from local government) must be strong in at least one of those two fields. Applications from barristers will be considered.

Removals, housing support/mortgage subsidy scheme and other benefits. Flexitime.

Application form and further particulars from the Borough Secretary and Solicitor, Civic Offices, Civic Centre Road, Havant. (Tel. Havant (0705) 474174 Ext. 187 or 193).

Disabled persons may apply as appropriate. Closing date: 5th January 1987.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS

requires an ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

for the Professional Practice Department. Duties to investigate complaints against RICS Members and advise on practice matters. Age 25-45.

A degree or professional qualification, preferably in Law, and excellent communication skills are required.

Commencing salary within a range £9,650-£11,000 pa aae.

Closing date for applications: Friday 9th January 1987

Application with CV and daytime telephone number to the Personnel Officer, The RICS, 12 Great George Street, Parliament Square, London SW1P 3AD.

CROYDON MAGISTRATES' COURT Court Clerk

We have a vacancy for a Court Clerk who must be qualified as a Court Clerk and ideally have five years experience. Applicants must be able to take courts of all types. The person appointed will join a team of hard working clerks dealing with the widest range of cases. Salary up to £13,530.

There is a good scheme of removal allowance. Application forms can be obtained from my office (686-8680 ext. 206) and must be returned by 7.1.87.

J.D. BERRYMAN
Clerk to Justices

Croydon Magistrates' Courts
Barclay Road
Croydon CR9 3NG

OUR THANKS GO TO JOHN BETJEMAN

Unfair, untrue, a town with a lot to offer and so have we. We are a newly formed two partner practice with established clients and more work than we can cope with without the assistance of an articled clerk, preferably with at least five years of French passed. We offer you good experience in civil and criminal litigation, matrimonial, conveyancing and all areas of general practice. The vacancy arises in January 1987. Why not contact us, either Julie Harris or John Betjeman. 0753 24465.

CUNNINGHAM, JOHN & CO

Norfolk/Suffolk solicitors with seven offices (led by fee, need young solicitor at Thetford base office to deal with wide variety of criminal work (not all legal aid); personal injury and commercial litigation and matrimonial work. We are looking for ability, energy and a sense of humour. Please telephone Simon, John or William Jackson on Thetford (0642) 2405 (in and out of hours) or just telephone our receptionists and ask for a copy of our brochure.

DORSET

Friendly and busy general practice has two immediate vacancies in a rural of Dorset. One in litigation and the other in the non-contentious department. In both there is scope for some specialisation. We seek young Solicitors or Legal Executives who expect competence and hard work to be well rewarded. Apply with full CV to: Creach & Co (Ref: FB), 29 High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1HF.

SUPER SECRETARIES

SECRETARIES FOR Architects & Designers. Permanent & temporary positions. AMBA Qualified. 01 754 0532

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

HAPPY CHRISTMAS. Please send New Year. Please send us next meet. Ken TYPWML.

COURSES

A-LEVEL EASIER COURSES: French in France. Art History in Florence. Information from 01 262 5933 and Tel. 084 7333. VERBOS PRE-UNIVERSITY SUMMER COURSES: Information from 01 262 5933 and Tel. 084 7333.

Fenwick Elliott Construction Law and Commercial Litigation

Brilliant, hard-working, amusing Solicitor needed. Come and see us if you are used to winning cases and enjoy working in a hi-tech environment. Many of our clients are Architects, Contractors, Developers and others associated with Construction and Property. The work is largely but not exclusively litigious. Newly qualified to 3 year admitted preferred. Apply to Dean James, Fenwick Elliott, 353 Strand, London WC2R 0HS. Tel 01-379 6700.

EAST SUSSEX

CUSHMANS, an expanding firm with offices in Brighton and Hove, now requires two assistant solicitors. Each must have a sound working experience and a lively and outgoing approach. One will be required for all types of litigation with the opportunity of some advocacy and the other for non-contentious work in our expanding Conveyancing Department. Good salary and definite partnership prospects for the right applicant. CV to: J.D. Coshans, Scott Richards & Co, 22 Queen Street, Brighton, Devon, EX7 9JA. Telephone (0629) 82465.

IS THERE LAW OUTSIDE LONDON?

Yes! Sound training with wide range of experience offered by old established and busy medium-sized practice in pleasant cathedral city. Rural and cultural pursuits on hand. Immediate vacancy for articled clerk and possible further vacancy in autumn 1987. Write with CV to: Lamon, Felton & Co, (Ref: FDH), 86 Crane Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2DE.

BOREHAM WOOD

Hertfordshire solicitors require enthusiastic and able applicants to specialise in criminal work in small busy, friendly practice. One to two years' post-qualification experience preferable. Salary negotiable. Tel: 01-953 4241-3. Ref: JH.

CHRISTMAS DEADLINES

All advertisements for the issue of 28th December must be placed by Tuesday 23rd December 6pm to place your advertisements please telephone 01-481 4000

MONDAY

Education: University Appointments, Prep & Public School Appointments, Educational Courses, Scholarships and Fellowships. La Crème de la Crème and other secretarial appointments.

TUESDAY

Computer Hardware Computer Appointments with editorial, Legal Appointments, Solicitors, Commercial Lawyers, Legal Officers, Private & Public Practice. Legal La Crème for top legal secretaries. Public Sector Appointments.

WEDNESDAY

La Crème de la Crème and other secretarial appointments. Property: Residential, Town & Country, Overseas, Rentals, with editorial, Antiques and Collectables.

THURSDAY

Management and Executive appointments with editorial. La Crème de la Crème and other secretarial appointments.

FRIDAY

Motors: A complete car buyer's guide with editorial. Business to Business: Business opportunities, franchises etc. with editorial. Restaurant Guide. (Monthly)

SATURDAY

Overseas and UK Holidays: Villas/Cottages, Hotels, Flights etc.

THE WORLD FAMOUS PERSONAL COLUMN, INCLUDING RENTALS, APPEARS EVERY DAY.

DAS LEGAL EXPENSES INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED LEGAL ADVISERS

Following the planned expansion of the Company we wish to recruit a Solicitor to manage our in-house Telephone Advisory Service in Head Office, Bristol.

Ideally the post will suit a solicitor of several years qualification although we would consider appointing a recently qualified solicitor with the right background. He or she will be expected to give advice on a wide variety of legal matters affecting the individual. This is a newly created post and the ability to organise and communicate well is essential.

We also wish to recruit in a supporting role and Adviser who should be either a solicitor or legal executive with relevant experience.

An attractive salary, non-contributory pension scheme, mortgage subsidy in due course, luncheon vouchers and other staff benefits are offered.

Applicants should apply in writing with CV, to:-

C Brewer
Manager, Claims Department
DAS Legal Expenses Insurance Company Limited
Bristow
5 Welsh Back
Bristol
BS1 4SE



CIRENCESTER

Very busy expanding Cirencester firm with general practice requires highly motivated suitable solicitor who shares early career. Partnership opportunity for advocacy, preferably two to three years' experience but enthusiasm all important. Excellent salary for right person. Salary negotiable. Please write to: John Hewes & Co., Hayes House, 6/8 Dyer Street, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 2PP.

NORTH CORNWALL

Solicitor urgently required for general practice with good salary and Partnership prospects. Write with CV to: John Whiting & Co., National Westminster Bank Chambers, 24 Market Place, Cornwall

NORTH SHROPSHIRE

Small but expanding country practice requires solicitor for general work, opportunity for advocacy, preferably two to three years' experience but enthusiasm all important. Excellent salary for right person. Apply: Milton Francis, 32-36 Willow Street, Oswestry, Tel: 0691 654682.

To Place Your Classified Advertisement

Please telephone the appropriate number listed below between 9am and 6pm. Monday to Friday, or between 9.30am and 1.00pm on Saturdays.

Birth, Marriage and Death Notices 01-481 4000
Birth and Death notices may be accepted over the telephone. For publication the following day please telephone by 1.30pm. Marriage notices not appearing on the Court & Social page may also be accepted by telephone.

Trade Advertisers:

Appointments	01-481 4481
Public Appointments	01-481 1066
Property	01-481 1986
Travel	01-481 1989
U.K. Holidays	01-488 3698
Motors	01-481 4422
Personal	01-481 1920
Business to Business	01-481 1982
Education	01-481 1066

Forthcoming Marriages, Weddings, etc for the Court and Social Page Cannot be accepted by Telephone

Please send Court and Social Page notices to: Court & Social Advertising, Times Newspapers Ltd., 1, Pennington Street, London E1 9DD

Please allow at least 48 hours before publication. Any enquiries for the Court & Social page may be made after 10.30am on 01-822 9953 You may use your Access, Amex, Diners or Visa card.

COMPUTER APPOINTMENTS

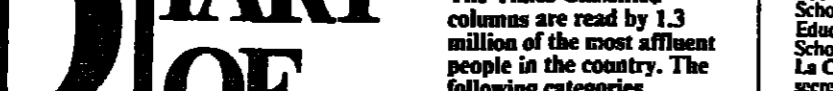
Training and Documentation

At IA we specialise in the fields of training and documentation. Our client list boasts the household names in the computer and electronic industries. Our clients are at the forefront of technology and are among the world-leaders in their fields. To satisfy their requirements we are now seeking Training and Documentation Professionals with skills in the following areas:

- Office Automation Systems
- Networks
- Unix
- Simulation
- Train and Trainer Courses
- Graphics
- CAD/CAM Systems
- Microcomputers
- On-line Documentation
- User Documentation
- Electronics
- Aerospace
- Communications
- Software Documentation

If you are considering a positive career move, either in the UK or Overseas, then call one of our consultants for a confidential discussion.

Telephone: 0462 57141
Or write to us at: Freepost Hitchin Herts SG5 1YL



A Division of Industrial Artists Limited and member of IRES
An Employment Agency and Employment Business. Def Licence No. 54/A/2824

DIARY OF THE TIMES CLASSIFIED

The Times Classified columns are read by 1.3 million of the most affluent people in the country. The following categories appear regularly each week and are generally accompanied by relevant editorial articles. Use the coupon (right), and find out how easy, fast and economical it is to advertise in The Times Classified.

MONDAY
Education: University Appointments, Prep & Public School Appointments, Educational Courses, Scholarships and Fellowships. La Crème de la Crème and other secretarial appointments.
TUESDAY
Computer Hardware Computer Appointments with editorial, Legal Appointments, Solicitors, Commercial Lawyers, Legal Officers, Private & Public Practice. Legal La Crème for top legal secretaries. Public Sector Appointments.

WEDNESDAY
La Crème de la Crème and other secretarial appointments. Property: Residential, Town & Country, Overseas, Rentals, with editorial, Antiques and Collectables.
THURSDAY
Management and Executive appointments with editorial. La Crème de la Crème and other secretarial appointments.

FRIDAY
Motors: A complete car buyer's guide with editorial. Business to Business: Business opportunities, franchises etc. with editorial. Restaurant Guide. (Monthly)
SATURDAY
Overseas and UK Holidays: Villas/Cottages, Hotels, Flights etc.

Fill in the coupon and attach it to your advertisement, written on a separate piece of paper, allowing 28 letters and spaces per line. Rates are: Lineage £4.00 per line (min. 3 lines); Banded Display £23 per single column centimetre; Court & Social £6 per line. All rates subject to 15% VAT. Send to: Shirley Margolis, Group Classified Advertisement Manager, Times Newspapers Ltd., PO Box 484, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone (Daytime): _____ Date of insertion: _____
(Please allow three working days prior to insertion.)
Use your Access, Visa, Amex or Diners cards.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom left corner.

VOLLEYBALL Scots have chance to shape future

By a Correspondent MIM Livingston will have the opportunity to take a hand in the future shaping of volleyball when they travel to the Vasa invitation tournament in Sweden early next month.

The 1985 Scottish champions are the only British side competing in the event, which runs from January 3 to 4, and which has been designated as an official trial tournament by the Federation of International Volleyball.

It is the twentieth year of the Vasa tournament with teams entered from Norway, Denmark and Finland as well as the host country and FIVB observers will watch proceedings with interest.

In an attempt to make the game more explosive with the aim of attracting wider television coverage, teams will be able to win points while receiving service for the first time. As a result, the first team to win 30 points, instead of the normal 15, will win the respective set.

If the new format proves successful, then the FIVB will look closely at the possibility of extending it to more established international events. Speedwell, however, the men's first division leaders in the Royal Bank English League, are one of the clubs who employ the new scoring system in training sessions.

Steve Nuth, coach to the Bath-based side, said "It puts a completely different complexion on the game as every mistake can result in a point." Speedwell took the most significant step to the league title so far when they defeated champions Polonia on Sunday 15-6, 15-7, 14-16, 15-7.

"We overpowered them at the net," Nuth said. "In fact, I was a little surprised at how easily we beat them." Speedwell also reached the semi-finals of the Knock-Out Cup by beating OBC Poole 3-0 at the weekend and meet Malory, conquerors of Polonia, for a place in the final next month.

In the women's cup quarter-finals, there were no surprises with Sale and Ashcombe both reaching the last four comfortably. Both teams are undefeated in the women's first division and intend to meet each other in the final of the other major domestic competition. Sale dropped a set - a rare occurrence this season - in their 3-1 cup quarter-final win over Dragonara Leeds while Ashcombe dismissed Bradford Millbarkers 3-0.

Knock-out cup semi-final dates: Sale v Ashcombe, Saturday, 12.30; Bradford v Millbarkers, Sunday, 1.30. Women's Sale v Bradford, Arsenal v Bradford, Tuesday, 7.30.

YACHTING: SAILING'S WATERGATE ENDS WITH ALL CLEAR FOR NEW ZEALAND BOAT 'Plastic fantastic' cleared by tests

From Keith Wheatley Fremantle

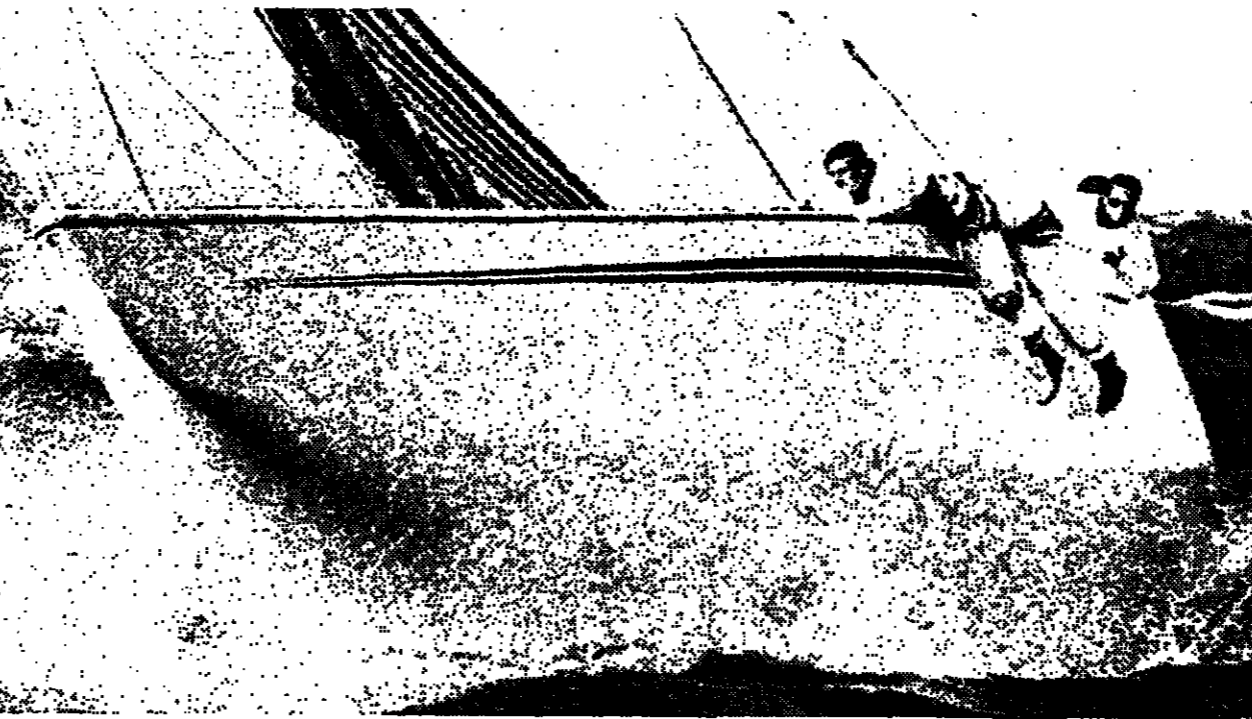
Glassgate, yachting's Watergate, is over. The controversy concerning the fibreglass 12-metre is legal has been settled in favour of the New Zealanders. Independent surveyors from Lloyds passed all four semi-finalists as eligible to compete in the America's Cup.

Holes were drilled in the New Zealand yacht. But this was at the specific request of Michael Fay, the syndicate chairman. KZ7 had already passed her construction requirements on the basis of extensive electronic and gamma-ray testing.

"Some of the comments made about our boat have been ludicrous, and some of the actions irresponsible. Our position was this has gone on long enough, and that our position of tolerance has ended."

"I've seen transcripts of a conversation which, wearing my lawyer's hat, look close to defamation. That has got to stop now. Anyone who wants to raise the issue again had better make a formal protest and tread carefully."

The prime mover in the whispering campaign against the "plastic fantastic" has been Dennis Conner and the Stars and Stripes syndicate. The syndicate, who had their boat, Stars and Stripes '87, tested by the measurer say they are now content with the legality of the New Zealand 12-metre. "We're 100 per cent happy with what we've seen," Robert Hopkins, technical chief of the Stars and Stripes, said. "It looked like a very thorough test."



Drastic New Zealand's KZ7 underwent electronic and gamma-ray testing before being declared eligible as a challenger

Each syndicate was entitled to place an observer at the re-measuring. "As a result of the tests, we feel that no aluminium boat or fibreglass boat of those four (semi-finalists) was in any way cheating, and certainly we never intended to say anything like that," Hopkins said.

However, Conner and the Stars and Stripes skipper, had raised anger in the New Zealand camp when he suggested recently that the only reason anyone would want to build out of fibreglass would be to cheat.

He said that after Courageous was built in 1973, 78 out of 81 12-metres had been made out of aluminium. New Zealand constructed the world's first three fibreglass boats, KZ3, KZ5 and KZ7, its America's Cup entry.

Hopkins retorted that, as far as the Stars and Stripes syndicate was concerned, Glassgate was over. He said that if New Zealand went on to become the challenger, it would be safe from any Australian protest in the final. "If that boat wins the challenger trial, they will be pretty bullet-proof from any criticism or protest by an Australian boat, which is, I'm sure, what Commandante Alberini was seeking to do."

For Michael Fay, the issue involved a personal climb-down, which he jokingly acknowledged. Last September he said that holes would be drilled in the New Zealand boat over his dead body. "I felt a gesture was called for, so I lay down on the dock before the measurer got busy with the drill and he stepped over me to get to the boat," Fay said. "It was somewhat against my personal instincts, call it a gesture on behalf of the New Zealand syndicate."

What Robert Rymil, principal surveyor with Lloyd's Register of Yachts and Small Craft, did not do was cover-test the New Zealand boat. This means drilling large-diameter holes to test for composition. Instead, small holes were drilled, and tiny instruments poked through to measure hull thickness. The operation was performed on Sunday and KZ7 was well enough to go sailing yesterday.

It was the first time in America's Cup history that boats progressing from the early stages to the semi-finals had been subjected to a complete re-measurement, and never before has there been so much at stake.

Commandante Alberini, of the Challenger of Record Yacht Club, Costa Smeralda, and head of the challenge organizing authority, made the announcement of legality with some formality.

"The necessary physical and electronic testing to ascertain that the weight, and weight distribution, required by the Society (Lloyds), has been complied with," Alberini said. Less formally he added: "I am very happy that the gossip and rumours we have had will now go away."

John Martin and Beruie Reed, the South African solo round-the-world race sailors who are competing in the BOC Challenge, have found themselves caught up in the political controversy surrounding the Australian Government's recent ruling to refuse visas to South African visitors (Barry Pickthall writes).

While both sailors received a warm welcome on arrival in Australia, their supporters, including Martin's wife, have received an official cold shoulder - even though Mrs Martin holds a British passport.

"They've stamped on the wrong lady's tail if they think they can stop me. I'm from Yorkshire and we fight," Lynn Martin told *The Australian* yesterday.

Mrs Martin has now sent her passport to the Australian Embassy in London where she hopes to get a more favourable answer today. The effective ban on the two South African support crews now places a heavy weight on the two sailors, whose boats have both suffered extensive damage.

Active races: 2nd class 2, 3rd class 2, 4th class 2, 5th class 2, 6th class 2, 7th class 2, 8th class 2, 9th class 2, 10th class 2, 11th class 2, 12th class 2, 13th class 2, 14th class 2, 15th class 2, 16th class 2, 17th class 2, 18th class 2, 19th class 2, 20th class 2.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL Spluttering Jets have slim hopes for the play-offs

By Robert Kirley

In the middle of November the New York Jets were the hottest club in the National Football League but that was before the play-off light - and the mayday - went out. New York, beaten 10-1 by the Cincinnati Bengals on Sunday, will splutter into the play-offs after losing five consecutive games.

The Jets could still win the AFC East division title and gain a bye in the first round of the play-offs if the Miami Dolphins beat the New England Patriots in the final game of the regular season. If New England beat Miami, the Jets would host Kansas City in the conference wild-card game next Sunday.

"It's embarrassing to be a player on this team," the Jets' defensive end, Barry Bennett, said. "Our coaches have gone and are pulling their hair out trying to find what will work."

The Bengals' quarterback, Boomer Esiason, did not go on Sunday, passing for 425 yards and five touchdowns against the Jets, who have yielded 181 points during their tailspin. The Jets are the first team to end the regular season with five defeats and still make the play-offs. It would be prudent not to insist in Jets T-shirts and pennants for your Super Bowl party.

The Kansas City Chiefs earned a play-off berth with a 24-19 away win against the Pittsburgh Steelers. Kansas City, whose special teams accounted for much of the victory, secured the victory with an interception by Albert Lewis.

two minutes and 22 seconds from time to take their first play-off berth since 1971.

The NFC play-offs were established before the games on Sunday: the Washington Redskins will host the Los Angeles Rams in the first game. The New York Giants and the Chicago Bears will host games in the next round, which will include the San Francisco 49ers.

The Bears beat the Dallas Cowboys 24-10 as Walter Payton equalled an NFL career record with his 106th rushing touchdown. Doug Flutie threw two scoring passes in his first start for the Bears and the Cowboys recorded more defeats than wins for the first time since 1964.

The Indianapolis Colts, who lost their first 13 games, ended the season with their third successive win. Thus, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who finished with the poorest record, are entitled to the first choice in the draft of college players. Last spring the Buccaneers made the first choice and selected the 1983 winner of the Heisman trophy, Bo Jackson, of Auburn University. Jackson became a household name for the Kansas City Royals.

The Buccaneers should have better luck with Vinny Testaverde, the University of Miami quarterback and this year's Heisman Trophy winner, who has evinced no aspirations to hit home runs. Results and tables, page 26

ICE HOCKEY Murrayfield stay on top

By Norman de Mesquita

Tony Hand decided not to stay in Canada as it was thought his return would give Murrayfield Racers an excellent chance to retain their Heineken Championship. Weekend win over Durham (at home) and Dundee (away) maintained their unbeaten record and strengthened their hold on first place in the premier division.

Dundee Rockets, although unbeaten, managed to share 16 goals at Nottingham on Saturday to become the first team to take a point from the Midlands, but they were no match for the Racers on Sunday. The Panthers found Whitley Warriors in Thompson's controversial form on Sunday and although 6-3 ahead at the end of the second period, they conceded seven goals in the third. This was a penalty-filled contest which saw 11 players ejected

four minutes from the end. Streatham Redskins, who had a win at last after six defeats, and Solihull Barons also kept the referee busy but the individual Championship weekend win over Durham (at home) and Dundee (away) maintained their unbeaten record and strengthened their hold on first place in the premier division.

Dundee Rockets, although unbeaten, managed to share 16 goals at Nottingham on Saturday to become the first team to take a point from the Midlands, but they were no match for the Racers on Sunday. The Panthers found Whitley Warriors in Thompson's controversial form on Sunday and although 6-3 ahead at the end of the second period, they conceded seven goals in the third. This was a penalty-filled contest which saw 11 players ejected

Kialoa III's record under attack

From Barry Pickthall, Sydney

Six of the world's top maxis, including Bob Bell's 80-foot Condor of Bermuda, are up inside Sydney Harbour for the annual Sydney-to-Hobart classic on Boxing Day with one aim in common - to break the 11-year-old record for this 650-mile passage race held by the venerable American maxi Kialoa III.

The 70-foot ketch, which is owned by Jim Kilroy, is one of only two yachts to have breached the three-day barrier in the 41-year history of the event - the other was Peter Blake's 1981-82 Woodward round-the-world racer Lisa New Zealand, which

was both line and handicap honours in 1980. However, with the American yacht Nirvana clipping 14 hours off Condor's former fastest race record last year, it must only be a question of time before the Condor is broken, with its 11-year-old record of 83 feet long, break through the elusive two-and-a-half day barrier on this sail across the notorious Bass Strait to the Tasmanian capital.

Lined up against Condor, whose crew have been working round the clock to fit a new hull keel and mast in time for the event, is Sovereign, an 83-foot

Pedrick design developed from the lines of Nirvana. It was launched last month for Bernard Lewis, the Australian real-estate tycoon, and will be the first race - a 180 miles - in record time last week. Two other promising front-runners expected to lead the 128-strong fleet are the two Farr-designed Whitbread two-masted Atlantic Frigates, owned by the South African, Paddy Kuitel, and her great rival, Enterprise New Zealand, skippered by Digby Taylor. The pair completed the Cape Town-Auckland leg of that race within nine minutes of each other.

SA sailors in ban row

John Martin and Beruie Reed, the South African solo round-the-world race sailors who are competing in the BOC Challenge, have found themselves caught up in the political controversy surrounding the Australian Government's recent ruling to refuse visas to South African visitors (Barry Pickthall writes).

While both sailors received a warm welcome on arrival in Australia, their supporters, including Martin's wife, have received an official cold shoulder - even though Mrs Martin holds a British passport. "They've stamped on the wrong lady's tail if they think

SA sailors in ban row

they can stop me. I'm from Yorkshire and we fight," Lynn Martin told *The Australian* yesterday. Mrs Martin has now sent her passport to the Australian Embassy in London where she hopes to get a more favourable answer today. The effective ban on the two South African support crews now places a heavy weight on the two sailors, whose boats have both suffered extensive damage.

Active races: 2nd class 2, 3rd class 2, 4th class 2, 5th class 2, 6th class 2, 7th class 2, 8th class 2, 9th class 2, 10th class 2, 11th class 2, 12th class 2, 13th class 2, 14th class 2, 15th class 2, 16th class 2, 17th class 2, 18th class 2, 19th class 2, 20th class 2.

International Law Report The Hague

Decolonization boundaries to apply

Frontier dispute (Burkina Faso/Mali) Before Judge Mohammed Bedjaoui, President of Chamber, Judge Manfred Lachs, Judge Jose Maria Ruda, Judge ad hoc Francis Luchaire and Judge ad hoc Georges Abi-Saab Registrar Torres Bernartez (Judgment December 22)

The appropriate law to apply in settling a frontier dispute between two former French colonies in West Africa was considered by the International Court of Justice at The Hague in defining a disputed length of the boundary between Burkina Faso and Mali.

The Court unanimously agreed upon the frontier line, but Judges ad hoc Luchaire and Abi-Saab dissociated themselves from some of the reasoning and conclusions. By a special agreement dated September 16, 1983, the Republic of Upper Volta (known as Burkina Faso since August 4, 1984) and the Republic of Mali agreed to submit to a chamber of the Court a dispute relating to the delimitation of part of their common frontier.

The chamber, whose judgment has the effect of that of the full Court and which was accepted as binding and to be effected within a year by the parties, was also asked to nominate three experts to assist in the demarcation. In its judgment the International Court held:

Both states derived their existence from the process of decolonization which had been unfolding in Africa during the past 30 years. Their territories and that of Niger were formerly part of French West Africa. Burkina Faso succeeded to the colony of Upper Volta and Mali to Sudan (formerly French Sudan). Both parties stated the settlement should be based on respect for the principle of the intangibility of frontiers inherited from colonization.

The Principle In those circumstances, the Court could not disregard the principle of *uti possidetis juris*. It emphasized the general scope of the principle in matters of decolonization and its importance for the African continent. Although invoked for the first time in Spanish America, the principle was not a rule pertaining solely to one specific system of international law.

It was a general principle logically connected with the phenomenon of the obtaining of independence and its obvious purpose was to prevent the independence and stability of new states being endangered by fratricidal struggles provoked by the challenging of frontiers following the withdrawal of the administering power.

The principle accorded pre-eminence to legal title over effective possession as a basis of sovereignty. Its primary aim was to secure respect for the territorial boundaries which existed when independence was achieved.

When those boundaries were delimitations between different administrative divisions or colonies subject to the same sovereign the application of the principle resulted in their being transferred into international boundaries, as in the instant case.

The principle appeared to conflict with the right of peoples to self-determination; however, the maintenance of territorial status quo in Africa was often seen as the wisest course. The essential requirement of stability in order to survive and develop had induced African states to consent to the maintenance of colonial frontiers.

The chamber could not decide *ex aequo et bono* since the parties had not asked it to do so; but it would have regard to equity *infra legem*, that form of equity which constituted a method of interpretation of the law in force and which was based on law.

French colonial law The parties agreed that the delimitation of the frontier had to be appraised in the light of the French colonial law. The line to be determined as that which existed in 1960-61 was originally no more than an administrative boundary dividing two former French overseas territories and as such was defined at that time not according to international law but according to the relevant French legislation.

International law, and therefore the principle of *uti possidetis*, applied as from the accession of independence but had no retroactive effect. The principle froze the territorial title; it stopped the clock but it did not put back the hands.

International law did not effect any return to the law of the colonizing state, which was but one factual element among others, evidence indicative of the colonial heritage at the critical date.

French West Africa was headed by a governor-general and divided into colonies, headed by a lieutenant-governor. Colonies were subdivided into *cercles* headed by a commandant.

Mali gained its independence in 1960 succeeding the Sudanese Republic which had emerged from the French Sudan. Upper Volta came into being in 1959 and was abolished in 1960 and reconstituted in 1967, with the 1932 boundaries, and gained independence in 1960.

The problem for the Court was to ascertain what in the disputed area was the frontier which existed in 1960-61 between Sudan and Upper Volta. Both parties agreed that when they became independent there was a definite frontier and both accepted that no modification had taken place since.

The easternmost point of the disputed frontier, the tripoint Niger-Mali-Burkina Faso, gave rise to conflict between the parties. Mali's claim that it could not be determined without Niger's agreement, and Burkina Faso considered that the Court had to reach a decision.

The Court held that its jurisdiction was not restricted merely to the end-point of the disputed frontier line on the frontier of a third state not a party to the proceedings. The rights of Niger were in any event safeguarded by article 59 of the Statute of the Court which provided that the decision of the Court had no binding force except between the parties and in respect of that particular case.

In any event the Court was not required to fix a tripoint, which would require the consent of all three states, but to ascertain in the light of the evidence which the parties had made available how far the frontier had inherited from the colonial power extended.

Such a finding implied that the territory of a third state lay beyond the end-point and that the parties had exclusive sovereign rights up to that point. However, since the parties had contended that they possessed a common frontier with the other as far as a specific point, neither could change its position to rely on sovereignty of a third state.

The Court would merely define the end-point where the frontier ceased to divide the territories of Burkina Faso and Mali but that would not amount to a decision that that was a tripoint which affected Niger. Evidence The parties relied on different types of evidence.

1 They referred to legislative and regulatory texts or administrative documents. However, such texts merely constituted a description of the disputed area; they were limited in scope and the correct interpretation of them was a matter of dispute between the parties.

2 Maps Both produced an abundant collection of cartographic materials. But the Court noted that in frontier delimitations maps merely constituted information and never constituted territorial titles in themselves. They were merely extrinsic evidence which might be used along with other evidence to establish the real facts. Their value depended on their technical reliability and their neutrality to the parties in the dispute.

illustration of any of the texts produced although it was clear from their wording that two of the texts were intended to be accompanied by maps. Further, no indisputable boundary line could be discerned from the documents.

One issue between 1958 and 1960 by the French *Institut géographique national* was drawn up by a body neutral towards the parties. Although it did not possess the status of a legal title it was a visual portrayal both of the available texts and of information available on the ground.

Where other evidence was lacking or not sufficient to show an exact line, the probative force of the IGN map had to be exercised as compelling.

The parties also invoked the conduct of the administrative authorities as proof of the effective exercise of territorial jurisdiction in the region during the colonial period. The role played by such conduct was complex and the Court had to make a careful evaluation of their legal force in each particular instance.

The Court emphasized that the present case was decidedly unusual as concerned the facts to be proved or the evidence to be produced.

Although the parties had produced complete case files as far as possible the Court could not be certain of deciding the case on a basis of full knowledge of facts. The case file showed inconsistencies and shortcomings.

The court considered what relationship could be established among the pieces of information provided by the various texts of which it had to make use and reached a number of conclusions.

In certain points the sources agreed and bore one another out, but in some respects, in view of the shortcomings of some of the shorter maps, they tended to conflict.

Law Report December 23 1986

GCHQ payment is taxable

Hamblett v Godfrey (Inspector of Taxes) Before Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Balcombe [Judgment December 17]

The special, *ex gratia*, payment made to civil service employees at GCHQ, Cheltenham, by the Government in return for the surrender of certain rights under the employment protection legislation was properly to be described as an emolument of their employment and assessable to income tax under Schedule E.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Miss Jane Hamblett, one of the employees, from a decision of Mr Justice Knox (*The Times* March 12, 1986; [1986] 1 WLR 839) upholding the Crown's appeal from a determination of special commissioners in favour of Miss Hamblett. The Court refused Miss Hamblett leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

In December 1983 the Prime Minister gave a direction that conditions of service at GCHQ should exclude membership of a union other than an approved departmental staff association. Employees were offered a choice of accepting the withdrawal of their rights or of being transferred to other civil service employment elsewhere.

Those deciding to continue working at GCHQ were paid £1,000 by the Government as recognition of the loss of the rights that they had previously enjoyed. Miss Hamblett was one employee who elected to continue her employment and she was paid the £1,000.

She appealed against the assessment to Schedule E income tax made on her for 1983-84 on the basis that the £1,000 was a taxable emolument of her employment. The special commissioners upheld her case that the payment was not an emolument for the purposes of section 181 and 183(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 but they dismissed her appeal on the ground that it was chargeable under section 61 of the Finance Act 1976 (benefits received by higher paid employees).

Mr Justice Knox, held that the commissioners had erred in law and that the payment fell within Schedule E by virtue of section 181 of the Act. He did not consider the Crown's alternative claim under section 61 of the 1976 Act.

Mr R. K. Mathew for Miss Hamblett; Mr Alan Moses for the Crown. LORD JUSTICE PURCHAS said that there were two lines to the appeal, that arising under section 181 and that under section 61 of the Finance Act 1976. They could be dealt with separately.

Mr Mathew attacked the judge's decision on the ground that he had disturbed the finding of fact reached by the commissioners that the £1,000 was not paid to Miss Hamblett in return for her services as an employee.

Thus, he said, the decision that the payment constituted an emolument arising from her employment within the charge to Schedule E by virtue of section 181 of the 1970 Act could not stand.

The commissioners' conclusion, he said, that the payment was not an "emolument" for section 181 purposes had been reached after they had correctly applied the law to the facts found and after they had correctly applied their views of the relevant authorities.

The issue on the first limb could be refined to a narrow point of construction - one that had often been before the courts for consideration - namely, the significance of the words in section 181 "emoluments therefrom".

The starting point was the decision of the House of Lords in *Hochstrasser v Mayes* ([1960] AC 376) - a case called on by Mr Mathew for the proposition that a payment by an employer to an employee was not within section 181 unless it was related to the performance of the service or services rendered by the employee.

That case was followed by the decisions of the House of Lords in *Laidler v Perry* ([1966] AC 16), *Brunby v Milner* ([1976] 1 WLR 1096) and *Tyres v Smart* ([1979] 1 WLR 115).

Those cases established that such a payment was a Schedule E emolument if it was paid to an employee by an employer in return for acting as, or being, an employee and for no other reason.

The approach that the court should take - and which Mr Justice Knox did take - was to consider the status of the payment in the context in which it was made.

The £1,000 was made to compensate Miss Hamblett for the loss of her certain statutory protection and also for the loss of her right to belong to, or join, a trade union.

Those were both rights connected with her employment and without her employment she would not have had any need of such rights. Had her employer objected to some activity that she pursued that was not connected with her employment, for example her membership of a particular golf club, and had then made her payment to refrain from carrying on such activity that might be a payment that would not satisfy sections 181 and would not be chargeable to income tax.

However, on the instant facts the judge was correct in holding that the commissioners had erred in law and was right to set aside the decision that the payment came within the Schedule E charge.

In the circumstances it was unnecessary to go on to consider the more complicated issues arising under section 61 of the Finance Act 1976. The appeal should be dismissed.

Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Balcombe delivered concurring judgments. Solicitors: Lane & Co, Cheltenham; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Improbable defence must go for trial

Rafidain Bank v Agem Universal Sugar Trading Co Ltd and Another Before Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Neill [Judgment December 18]

When the defence to an action related to events occurring in a civil war in another country with totally different mores and laws, and had a conditional leave to demand the court did not mean that it could not support a defence. If it could be described as more than shadowy but less than probable, it was a case which should go to trial.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the plaintiffs, Rafidain Bank from a decision of Mr Justice Skinner who on February 14, 1986 gave the first defendants, Agem Universal Sugar Trading Co Ltd conditional leave to demand the plaintiffs' action for the repayment of money said to be paid under a mistake.

Mr Jules Sher, QC and Mr Stephen Nash, for the plaintiffs; Mr Gavin Lightman, QC and Mr Patrick Talbot for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said that 16 years ago the old kingdom of Iraq was overthrown and the Kurds did not like their new rulers. From 1970 to 1983 the Kurds were in a state of rebellion.

At the beginning of this decade the Kurdish rebellion was inconvenient to the Iraqi government because of its war with Iran. The defendants said that consequently there were negotiations between the Iraqi government and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) for a ceasefire and that it was a term of the agreement that the Kurds should be paid a substantial sum by way of compensation.

It was said that the sum of approximately US\$12m which was in dispute represented compensation from the Iraqis to the PUK. The ceasefire lasted from 1983 to January 17, 1985 and when it ended it was said that the Iraqi government wanted their money back and used an illegal means of getting it.

The plaintiff said that the defence was a pack of lies and that the Kurds had swindled them out of the money. On

January 8, 1985 someone handed into the cable directory of the plaintiff bank the authorization for the money to be paid to a named beneficiary. The plaintiff's case was that that authorization was forged.

One of the plaintiffs' middle rank employees, a Kurdish origin, who was one of the signatories to the authorization had now taken to the hills. However, he had managed to get to Teheran where he swore an affidavit in which he said that he was sent for by the Iraqi Minister of Finance and told that he had been nominated by the PUK as their trustee for the money to be paid and that he was to keep that information to himself.

That was denied by the plaintiffs. Iraq was a totalitarian state and banks, including the plaintiff, were owned by the government. The plaintiffs produced evidence from an academic lawyer that under Iraqi law the plaintiff was a corporation and subject to regulation which did not authorize government ministers to interfere with the day-to-day working of the plaintiffs.

They might have considerable difficulty in showing a judge that their story was true. But it was not a case in which Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court should apply. However improbable a story was, unless it was so improbable that it was beyond belief, it must be tried. Lord Justice Nourse delivered a concurring judgment. Solicitors: Landau & Scanlan; Boddie Hatfield

RACING

Combs Ditch hoping to make it third-time lucky in King George

David Elsworth is hoping it will be third-time lucky when his crack chaser Combs Ditch attempts to win the King George VI Rank Chase at Kempton Park on Boxing Day.

and we get soft ground and a good gallop, he's in with a sporting chance," Elsworth said.

"If it's fast ground, I'll be surprised if anything can catch Dessy."

Combs Ditch goes for the Kempton spectacular, traditionally the highlight of the Boxing Day programme, without the benefit of a preparatory race.

Though his record suggests he does not hold his form long, preferring early or mid-season racing to late, in the Peter Marsh Chase over three miles at Haydock Park last January he received 2lb from Forgive'N Forget and beat him 7/8 lengths.

Simon Sherwood is booked to ride which ever Brown rejects. Elsworth and his team fear none, but have great respect for Wayward Lad, attempting to win a record-fourth King George, and the ante-post favourite, Forgive'N Forget, who won the 1985 Cheltenham Gold Cup for Malton trainer Jimmy Fitzgerald.

Combs Ditch badly cut his off-fore foot at grass in the summer and took longer this Autumn to come to his peak. However, he is now fit, fresh and pulling hard on the gallops near Fordingbridge.

By also running his popular second-season chaser Desert Orchid, the Whitsbury stable should ensure a strong gallop in the King George.

Latest betting on the big race: 2 Forgive'N Forget, 9-2 Wayward Lad, 11-2 Bolands Cross, 8 Half Free, Combs Ditch, 12 Desert Orchid, Door Latch, 16 Cybrandian, 20 and upwards others.



Combs Ditch, who heads for Kempton without the benefit of an outing this season

Presenting a full holiday service

Racing resumes on Boxing Day with eight meetings, featuring the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park.

The Times will provide a comprehensive service for all eight programmes in our Christmas Eve issue, which also features a preview of the big races, both here and in Ireland, and The Times Private Handicapper's exclusive ratings for Kempton Park and Wetherby.

Diligent Dwyer leaves little to chance with Forgive'N Forget

Mark Dwyer will not be lingering too long over the Christmas Day festivities - he has a more pressing matter on his mind.

Amazingly, the man who will partner the favourite Forgive'N Forget in the King George VI Chase on Boxing Day has never before ridden round Kempton.

Jimmy Fitzgerald's owners asked him if he would be interested in moving there, he accepted immediately.

Surely, though, his natural ability in the saddle had something to do with that decision? Dwyer is modest: "I believe that 90 per cent of winners are good horses, and also, if you're having the luck, people want you to ride for them."

are in great demand whenever his commitments to Fitzgerald allow. When possible, he will ride for Tony Charlton and also, when the stable starts firing, for Tony O'Neill.

Certainly, Peter Scudamore is under no illusions about the quality of his closest rival. "Mark is a very, very good jockey," he says. "He always rides a good race, and horses seem to run for him."

Fine omen from The Jolly Beggar

Leading championship contender Peter Scudamore and Mark Dwyer fought out a tremendous finish in the last race before Christmas at Towcester yesterday, victory going to Dwyer on The Jolly Beggar, his only mount of the day.

He has a good working relationship with Fitzgerald, and is happy to adapt his riding style to his boss's requirements. "The gov'nor believes that the race is won between the second last and the last, so that's the way I'm riding now for him. It doesn't always work, mind. Sometimes you get there a bit too early, sometimes you never get there at all."

Refusing rides on bad horses

Although in an enviably strong position, he is trying not to think about the jockeys' championship. "You must have your priorities right and ride on a day-to-day basis. Anything can happen between now and May, and at the moment I don't feel any pressure on me."

John Dorman is believed to have backed Dwyer at 100-1 for the championship. At this stage of the proceedings, that looks like a pretty good bet.

Sponsors increase support

Sponsorship money has soared from £4.4m to £5.3m - an increase of 20 per cent - in a year when inflation has stayed at around 5 per cent and television coverage has continued to be cut.

Richard Power, of Trusthouse Forte - sponsorship increase of over 50 per cent during 1986 - said: "Racecourses are getting much better at packaging the whole day for companies. In the past, there might be three different sponsors on a televised day's racing, but with television playing less of a role in the thinking of many companies, racecourses can put the day entirely under one company banner."

King's College Boy passes with honours

King's College Boy proved his class when soaring to a six-length victory from Polar Nomad in the Gleantress Novices' Chase at Kelso yesterday. His jockey, Graham Bradley, reported: "The winner had two stumps up his sleeve."

Richard Power, of Trusthouse Forte - sponsorship increase of over 50 per cent during 1986 - said: "Racecourses are getting much better at packaging the whole day for companies. In the past, there might be three different sponsors on a televised day's racing, but with television playing less of a role in the thinking of many companies, racecourses can put the day entirely under one company banner."

and delighted his one horse permit-holder, Tricia Calder. George Dux, who partnered the winner, said: "I rode in the colours of Arthur Stephenson, because I left Mrs Calder's colours behind at home."

Michael Hammond is keeping up his pace of a winner a day. He landed his sixth victory in as many racing days when Dunloring, a 7-2 chance, lifted the Charterhall Juvenile Novices' Hurdle.

Alan Macgregor, who bred the winner, said: "Now March Fly will have another hurdle race before switching to chases. This is the sire Souds's first winner. David has spent a while with both Gordon Richards and Jimmy FitzGerald, and has had a few rides for Ayr trainer John Wilson."

John Dorman is believed to have backed Dwyer at 100-1 for the championship. At this stage of the proceedings, that looks like a pretty good bet.

Results from yesterday's two meetings

Towcester
Going Soft
12.30 (2m) 1. COLONIAL CHARM S (Shawwood 20-1); 2. Brookmount (R Rowe 5-1); 3. Home Too Dear (A Charlton 2-1). Also ran: 4. The Boy (50), 5. Conditions Boy (40), 12. Thom Parize, 16. Cimon Bold (10), King's Advocate (6), 20. Tour de Force, 25. Duetting, 33. Pies Special, 40. Hasty Diver, 45. Mearns, 50. Paganero (10), 55. Salsora, 60. Revolver, 65. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

Kelso
Going Good to Soft
12.15 (2m) 1. DUNLORING (M Hammond 7-2); 2. Puffa Jacket (R Lamb, 11-10); 3. Elanor Coast (C Grant 5-2). Also ran: 4. Come For The Wine (50), 5. Just Aquited, 6. Townsville, 7. Valiant Pilgrim, 8. M'noon (50), 9. Deep Seat (10), 10. Greenham, 11. Nelly (10), 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

BASKETBALL

Portsmouth's loss brings Brazilian blend to Last's cup

Two South Coast first division clubs are bringing joy and despair to David Last, the tournament director of the World Invitation Club championships (WICB), which go ahead for the tenth year at Crystal Palace between January 1 and 4.

Paul Stimpson, the holder of a record 83 England caps, has been reinstated as captain of the national team following the withdrawal of four Portsmouth players, including Karl Tatham, who had been previously named as captain for the Pobjajo tournament in Finland on December 28-31 (Nicholas Harting writes).

Behan's new world as wide as the prairies

Lillian Behan, one of the heroines of the Curtis Cup victory in Kansas last August, is the first member of the team to turn professional.

TO PLACE YOUR MOTORS ADVERTISEMENT IN THE TIMES TRADE ADVERTISERS TEL: 01-481 4422

Brook... The game longer a ta... CHRIS... The game longer a ta... TEL: 01-481 4422

John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, assesses England's players and officials in his half-term report Broad takes opportunity with both hands

A match batsmen couldn't fail in

By Michael Stevenson

England's tour of Australia is past the turn. Eleven weeks have gone and there are eight to come. Nets tomorrow and another Test match starting on Boxing Day prelude a Christmas break, but not a half-term report.

An early setback against Queensland, a poor showing against Western Australia and defeat by New South Wales have been offset by victory in the first Test match.

Charges of an over-cautious approach since then, though not unfounded, have taken insufficient account of the legacy of unceasing pressure left by 11 successive Test matches in West Indies and England which contained not a single victory and consisted mostly of defeat. Suggestions that the Ashes should be scrapped are no more than a biennial chestnut. It is like saying that the averages should be.

The overall impression is of a well-knit side. I should like to see them travelling in ties rather than white boiler suits, and there is no danger of anyone being scorched by the missionary zeal of the players. They realise now, I imagine, that they should not have contrived to get out of playing a limited-overs match after losing early to New South Wales in Newcastle, and there has been some fribustering in the field; but three wins in the six state matches are par for the course, and more thought has gone into making the best use of the resources available than was the case in West Indies last winter term.

Mike Gatting
It was a pity about the "oversleeping" at Melbourne, an indication that he still has much to learn about the responsibilities inherent in the England captain's job. On the other hand, taking on the No.3 position in the Test side was an act of genuine leadership, and the calculated way in which he laid about Greg Matthews during his 100 in the third Test was just what we were looking for.

John Embury
His bowling in the Test victory in Brisbane was one of the highlights of the tour so far. And now that Australia's batsmen are becoming more familiar with his methods without growing contemptuous of them, he would, I think, benefit from a more varied use of the bowling crease. He is a usefully quiet foil as Gatting's vice-captain.

Bill Athey
After first innings scores in the first three Tests of 76, 96 and 55, and opening partnerships of 223 and 112 with Broad, he need no longer look back on his England career as one of almost unrelieved failure. Apart from a weakish area when brought forward outside the off stump, his batting technique has much to recommend it, and he has a Yorkshireman's proper distaste for getting out.

Ian Botham
Encouraged, and allowed by the press, to keep a lower profile than in West Indies, he is having a correspondingly happier tour, though if, as he promises, he is to end his touring days on a high note, his inter-coastal injury will need to make a remarkable recovery. His century in Brisbane was an expression of his determination to do well. Tasmania's wild trout also found a fisherman worthy of their gentle last Saturday.

Chris Broad
He has taken with both hands the opportunity the tour gave him. Successive hundreds against Australia give him a proud place on the

honours board, and he has worked hard and very well for it. His on-side play is as sound as his temperament, and he is always well turned out. We await with interest to see how he copes with the West Indian fast bowlers in Perth at the end of next week.

Phillip DeFreitas
It is a little early yet to predict just where his considerable natural talent will lead him. He can be lively with the ball, has a fine arm in the field and showed, while making 40 in the first Test match, that he is quite a West Indian flair with the bat. Then, at Adelaide, he discovered the part nerves play in Test cricket. It is good to see the pleasure he gets out of playing other games such as tennis and golf.

Graham Dilley: Five wickets in Australia's first innings of the first Test match established him as first pick among the fast bowlers. This was a splendid effort after the recent disruptions to his career. But he still tends to bowl at about keeping something in reserve, such as a yard or more of pace. His boots need cleaning very badly.

Phil Edmonds
An occasionally supercilious air disguises a caring individual. His bowling has proved reliable (which could not always be said of it), if a little unimaginative. In 163 overs in the Test matches, he has taken seven wickets; but that is not an uncommonly slow rate for spin bowlers in Australia, and his role has had at times to be attritional. Titmus, for example, took a Test wicket every 21 overs on his last two Australian tours.

Neil Foster
He has had to battle against the feeling that he is a supernumerary, and after taking 106 wickets in England last season he was relegated too soon to the "groundstaff" category. He has a point, too. To have judged him, even provisionally, on his early form in the nets was to forget Madras 1984-85 (11 for 163), which showed what there is to be tapped.

Bruce French
Should he feel that we fail to reward merit, it would hardly be surprising. As the better of the two wicketkeepers, he has had to carry the drags simply because of Richards's stronger batting. Reconciling himself to this, for the common good, is as hard as the hardest leg-side stumping, and he is finding it so. To add to the irony, he himself has been scoring runs.

David Gower
More often than not, he seems only to be going through the motions. Yet in the second Test, at Perth, it was clear as soon as he came in that something within him had stirred. He played there an innings of full maturity. And for all his apparent indifference, no one from any country has scored more Test runs in 1986. "Put that in your pipe and smoke it," he could say - though he wouldn't.

Alan Lamb
He must be getting worried that he has played 44 innings for England since last reaching three figures. Being the enthusiast he is, and the only cricketer ever to have made three hundreds against a four-pronged West Indian fast attack, there is a natural reluctance to lose him; but he is in increasing need of some Test runs, notwithstanding all those he saves with his tireless fielding.

Jack Richards
Just as French's tour has been a great disappointment to him, so must Richards's have left him in seventh heaven. His 133 at Perth contained many fine and robust strokes. Whether he can hold on to his place without improving his wicketkeeping remains to be seen. The one-day suit, which starts soon, will suit him. He is excellently keen.

Wif Slack
A strong candidate for the Barrington Memorial Prize for good solid work. Should he be chosen at any time to play in a Test match, he will let no one down, and should he make a hundred, none would be more loudly and joyfully



Festive: Bob Hawke, Prime Minister of Australia, and Botham (Photo: Graham Morris)

Sri Lanka despair as India make highest ever Test score

Kanpur (AFP) - Mohammad Azharuddin missed what would have been a first Test double century by one run as India made their highest total of 676 for seven, but the opening bowlers to despair against Sri Lanka predictably finished in a draw here on Monday.

The 23-year-old Azharuddin was out for 199 when he fell before to become Ravi Ratnayake's low victim of the day off the delivery which brought the first Test to a close, the second day of the match having been lost to rain.

Yet it was veteran Sunil Gavaskar who took the man of the match award with an unblemished innings of 176, and in this he stretched his world record of Test centuries to 34. The Indian captain, Kapil Dev, made 163 in addition to India's highest-ever score, and helped reduce the tourists' bowlers to despair in the Park pitch at Kanpur which had offered them no help.

India's previous highest Test score was 644 for seven declared against the West Indies, also at Kanpur in 1978-79. Kapil took 165 balls to reach his 163 in 240 minutes, in which he hit 19 fours and a six, before falling to Ratnayake. He and Azharuddin were involved in a magnificent 272-run partnership off only 49.3 overs, which was an Indian best performance for the sixth wicket in all Test matches and a record for any wicket against Sri Lanka.

The first one-day international will be played here on Wednesday and the second Test starts in Nagpur on Saturday.

Kent's concession to Dilley

Kent will leave no turf undisturbed in their attempt to hold on to their England fast bowler, Graham Dilley, aged 27, whose contract expires at the end of the year.

The club's chairman, Major Martin Fitch Blake, explained yesterday. "It's principally with Dilley in mind that we have dug up and relaid part of the square at Canterbury in a bid to get a faster and bouncier wicket."

He added: "Of course, we desperately want him to stay and would be very sorry indeed if he left. But if he's determined to go elsewhere, there's nothing we can do about it because he's a free agent on January 1."

Hampshire's loss

Hampshire CCC lost £5,739 last season. The blame poor weather last summer and the need to improve fire precautions at their Southampton headquarters as the main reasons for the losses. The club's sponsors, TNT Trustar Parcels Express, have signed a new agreement, worth about £10,000 to Hampshire.

Van Zyl out of 'Test' series

Johannesburg (Reuters) - Opening fast bowler, Van Zyl, is being dropped from the first unofficial "Test" against the rebel Australian cricketers starting here tomorrow because of a stress fracture in his left foot. The injury is expected to sideline Van Zyl, aged 25, for about six weeks.

NORDIC SKIING

Nothing deadens a sport more than an obvious result, all the time. To the relief of the cross-country skiing world, the weekend's World Cup races at Davos showed that nothing is certain any longer.

The demoralized and dejected Cumberland amateurs went home with just one consolation, a share of a game of £520, a considerable sum 50 years ago.

Sweden's world and Olympic champion who was beginning to acquire a reputation of being unbeatable, came fourth in the diagonal-style 30 kilometres on Saturday. Second, Switzerland edged out the Norwegians in the battle for third place in the slalom-style 40km relay on Sunday.

ENGLAND TOUR AVERAGES

M	I	N/o	Batting and fielding			R	HS	Avg	100	50	Ct	St
			M	I	N/o							
IT Botham	4	11	2	438	138	48.44	1	2	5	-	-	-
NA Foster	4	6	2	172	74	45.00	2	1	4	-	-	-
BC Broad	8	15	2	544	162	41.84	2	1	7	-	-	-
DN French	3	5	2	138	37.66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D Bower	1	1	0	282	138	35.60	1	1	3	-	-	-
A J Lamb	8	15	1	454	105	33.14	1	3	8	-	-	-
J J Whitaker	5	7	0	214	108	30.57	1	2	5	-	-	-
C W J Athey	7	13	1	385	96	30.41	1	4	5	-	-	-
M G Gatting	1	1	0	35	25	35.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
C J Richards	7	11	1	248	133	24.80	1	-	17	-	-	-
J E Embury	7	11	3	166	49	20.75	-	-	3	-	-	-
W N Slack	5	9	0	184	89	20.44	-	-	5	-	-	-
P A DeFreitas	17	31	0	350	117	17.75	-	-	11	-	-	-
P Edmonds	5	7	2	73	27	14.60	-	-	7	-	-	-
GR Dilley	5	4	1	33	32	11.00	-	-	1	-	-	-
GC Small	6	8	2	66	28	10.83	-	-	3	-	-	-

Bowling

M	I	N/o	R	W	Avg	BB	St	10
MW Gatting	88	25	189	9	21.00	4-31	-	-
GC Small	180	49	446	21	21.23	5-81	-	-
NA Foster	149	40	352	18	22.80	4-20	-	-
I Botham	137	37	217	10	29.00	3-42	-	-
G R Dilley	182	35	570	18	31.56	5-88	1	-
P A DeFreitas	216	41	680	21	32.38	4-44	-	-
J E Embury	363.5	107	824	22	37.45	6-62	2	-
Phil Edmonds	332	4	78	7	42.70	3-37	-	-
C W J Athey	4	0	25	0	-	-	-	-
A J Lamb	1	1	0	0	-	-	-	-

Canberra offers testing time for Botham

England take on the Prime Minister's XI in Canberra today in a one-day game which has suddenly assumed great importance. Ian Botham, out of action since tearing a rib muscle during the drawn second Test at Perth, makes his comeback, and will be the main focus of attention.

The 31-year-old all-rounder had little trouble batting in the nets at Hobart but never bowled at above gentle medium-pace. Today should determine his prospects for the Melbourne Test.

Van Zyl out of 'Test' series

Johannesburg (Reuters) - Opening fast bowler, Van Zyl, is being dropped from the first unofficial "Test" against the rebel Australian cricketers starting here tomorrow because of a stress fracture in his left foot. The injury is expected to sideline Van Zyl, aged 25, for about six weeks.

More to Wigan than the pier

Although there are claimants and pretenders to the throne in the world of rugby, there has never been any real doubt that the colliery town of Wigan is the heartland of rugby league. Indeed Wiganers complain that they are only remembered as a "boon of love" "Wigan Pier". Wigan Rugby League club followers believe, however, that the real immortals are the legendary full back and goal-kicker Jim Sullivan, the try-scoring Brown Bomber, Billy Boston, the silken scrum centre three-quarter Eric Ashton, the elusive runner of bygone days, Johnny Ring and that mighty forward, Brian McTigue.

These great names, and many others, are featured in a magnificent researched and compiled volume "Wigan 1895-1986" by Ian Morrison. It tells the tale in minute detail of how Wigan Wasp, the well-respected northern Rugby Union club, joined the great Northern Union breakaway in 1895, once played a season at the football ground, Springfield Park, now the home of Wigan Athletic, and soon established themselves as one of the most powerful teams in the game.

Excitement mounts as obvious winners fail

Nothing deadens a sport more than an obvious result, all the time. To the relief of the cross-country skiing world, the weekend's World Cup races at Davos showed that nothing is certain any longer.

Sweden's world and Olympic champion who was beginning to acquire a reputation of being unbeatable, came fourth in the diagonal-style 30 kilometres on Saturday. Second, Switzerland edged out the Norwegians in the battle for third place in the slalom-style 40km relay on Sunday.

The game that is no longer a tangled web

When Bernie Cotton, a former England and Great Britain hockey player, was asked how it felt to be overtaken and beaten by stronger bodies are coming out on top.

Chris Moore re-lives the excitement of the World Cup in his book *Autumn Gold*. This is his second work on hockey, which follows *Duel in the Sun* in which he dealt with the 1984 Olympic Games.

In his usual racy style, he recaptures the day to day thrills of the World Cup, leading up to the tremendous climax and also deals with the decline of the game in the Asian sub-continent. His chapter on John Crasto, the James of India correspondent, searching for the epithets to describe India's disasters, is especially amusing.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS FOR THE HOCKEY AND RUGBY LEAGUE CONNOISSEUR

Autumn Gold, the Puma book of the 1986 World Cup hockey, by Chris Moore with photographs by Morely Pecker. The Harrow Press: £6.50 + 65pp.

The History of Hockey, by Nevill Mirroy. Lifetime Ltd, £9.95.

Wigan R.L.F.C. 1895-1986 by Ian Morrison. Bredon Books: £13.95.

Komora quits

Budapest (Reuters) - Imre Komora has resigned after only five months as manager of the Hungarian football team. He has been replaced by Jozsef Verczes, the manager of the successful Budapest MTK-VM club.

New manager

Mansfield Marksman Rugby League Club have appointed Jim Crellin the former coach at Blackpool Borough, Halifax and Swinton to replace Steve Dennison, who was dismissed last week.

Weekes: primitive ferocity

One of the most remarkable things about their blistering score was that after a steady both Weekes and Worrell steadfastly refused to run between wickets.

Weekes: primitive ferocity

At a time, the humour of the situation became paramount and we arranged that, as each bowler's figures passed the dreaded century, the scorer would wave his red handkerchief and the official lamb in question would be warmly applauded by his colleagues.

Excitement mounts as obvious winners fail

Nothing deadens a sport more than an obvious result, all the time. To the relief of the cross-country skiing world, the weekend's World Cup races at Davos showed that nothing is certain any longer.

Sweden's world and Olympic champion who was beginning to acquire a reputation of being unbeatable, came fourth in the diagonal-style 30 kilometres on Saturday. Second, Switzerland edged out the Norwegians in the battle for third place in the slalom-style 40km relay on Sunday.

BASKETBALL
mouth's loss
Brazilian
Last's cup

On replaces
in Graham

World as
the prairies

WORKS
WIVES

RUGBY UNION: SELECTORS BLEND TOGETHER THE FINEST FROM THE DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TO PROVIDE FINAL TRIAL

England's probabilities to play for their places against best of the rest

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

England's selectors have effectively asked those players who have been the core of their early-season training squad to play for their places in the trial at Twickenham on January 3. Against the side which, with one exception, played against Japan two months ago, they have placed the best XV produced by the divisional championship which ended on Saturday.

That gives Mike Harrison the chance to add to his laurels as captain of an unbeaten Yorkshire and the North, by leading the Rest - which includes six of his colleagues from the side that won the Thorn EMI divisional championship.

The selectors have tried to keep together the northern backs who played so well against London on Saturday, blending with them the exciting talents of Webb and Oti, and giving them an old head at the helm in Harding.

That is a fair decision. The England XV played well in the final half-hour against Japan but very few of them have staked an undeniable claim to a place in the Five Nations championship. Now is their chance to demonstrate the individual and collective skills which the North have promulgated so freely over the last three weeks.

indeed he may require a further operation. Dooley, the other Flyde lock, is being given the chance to rehabilitate himself at club level before being tested once more at international level, his knee ligament injury having perhaps taken more out of him than he first realized.

Ideally the selectors were looking at Redman as their front jumper, but now he will occupy the place in which he jumps for club and division. Morrison's challenge will come from Pinnegar who, with Rose, his Wasps colleague, played consistently well throughout the divisional championship in a London side which ended in bottom place.

Macfarlane, the Flyde No. 8, has edged out Egerton from the Rest XV which is

hard on the Bath man: he had two good divisional games, but a less effective match against Richards when the south west played the Midlands at Leicester last weekend. Macfarlane is promoted on the basis of one good game, and good reports from Cumbria and Flyde. He receives a "mini-trial" this Saturday, since the Barbarians have asked him to replace the injured Gibson (London Irish) against Leicester, where he will play opposite Richards.

Neither Harding nor Oti appeared in the divisional championship, Harding because he is in direct conflict with Hill, England's captain. He won three caps last year and his consistency remains one of Bristol's outstanding virtues. Oti was preparing with Cambridge University for the annual encounter with Oxford on the first weekend of the championship, and the Midlands, for whom he is qualified, preferred their England squad wings, Evans and Goodwin.

However, his speed and strength have won him many friends, both at Durham and Nottingham where he now plays his club rugby. Indeed Carling, who has won his way to this level without playing any senior club rugby at all, was placed at full back in his first year at Durham because he was the only one fast enough to support Oti properly.

The understanding they contrived then may serve them stand them in good stead now, as well as the link between Stimms and Carling which was first established in the England Schools side of 1983. The following year Carling succeeded Stimms as schools captain.

It remains to be seen whether the 11 Bath players required will turn out for their club against Cardiff - or the Seven Wasps against Rosslyn Park - on New Year's Day, two days before the trial, but there may be a time when the considerations of the national side become paramount, and a fortnight before the first international of the season is none too soon.



Webb: Selectors hope his talents will blend with those of Oti and the northern backs

Webb's trial signals change

By David Hands

The selection of Jon Webb, Bristol's full back, for the England trial, may mark an end to the experiment of playing converted stand-off halves in the position. Featherston, Eric Davies and Peter Williams may be, but their positioning and defensive qualities must match their vision for the attacking game.

Webb, aged 23, has shown this season that he possesses both. He had his advocates in the south-west last season but in the new year his game declined slightly. His outstanding play this season brought him to the replacement bench in the divisional championship, and after coming on in the game against the North, he has seized his chance with alacrity.

Combined England Students against Japan at Oxford in October and Chris Oti, who scored four tries that day, was the direct beneficiary. Oti will be playing with him again in the trial. He is also a goal-kicker, though his range may be limited at the moment. He has only recently become Bristol's kicker, those duties having rested early in the season with Simon Elegg, but when Elegg's kicking became erratic, three other players were asked to practise, Webb among them, and he proved the best of the bunch.

Romania's hard men reach final

By Chris Than

There are two schools of thought in French rugby. The supporters of the French national coach, Jacques Fouroux, advocate the development of a giant "bone crusher" on the lines of the 1977 Grand Slam pack, an option amply illustrated by the display of forward power in the second Test against the All Blacks in Nantes.

The exponent of the other school of thought, Toulouse RFC, are ready and willing to challenge the view of the establishment with their exciting brand of running rugby in the final of the France Cup tournament against the Romanians from Constanta in Toulouse tonight.

Toulouse play the French version of total rugby as preached by Pierre Villereux, the former international full back. It is a game based on the polished skills of their players, and speed of action and foot, but mainly on an unusually high degree of tactical awareness of each individual player in the Toulouse set up.

Doyle preaching the simple method

By George Ace

Mick Doyle, the Irish coach, combines an infectious optimism with a realism that belies the brash nature of his personality. Coaching manuals are not part of his library. Doyle is his own man and while he will readily admit that everything he does is not necessarily right, he would take a lot of convincing that he was not right for the cause of Irish rugby.

After five years as a successful coach to Leinster, Doyle took over as national coach in a cloud of controversy following the sack of Willie John McBride, a greatly loved and much respected manager, after only one season in charge. But the flamboyant Doyle proceeded to win the Triple Crown and championship, dropping only one point to France, in his first season at the helm only to prove he was not in league with the gods by losing all four international last season.

Doyle however is very optimistic that Ireland will bounce back this season and in Dublin at the weekend he had this to say: "The Romanian match proved an indication of what we have been trying to do: it was the first time I have seen total synchrony between forwards and backs. The pack worked their guts out, laid the ball down properly and didn't mess about. The backs got all the ball they wanted and Crossan scored the tries.

Irish select Morrow

The Irish selectors have taken the unprecedented step of requesting an additional seven players to attend the training sessions next month in preparation for the opening international against Wales in Cardiff, on January 17 (George Ace writes).

Called up for the weekend stint on January 3 and 4, and on Sunday January 11 are: P Haycock (Terenure), D Irwin (Instonians), J Langbroek

Wood to coach students

By George Chesterton

Ted Wood, whose name has been so long associated with rugby excellence at Durham University, is to coach the Combined England Students side (David Hands writes).

Wood, the domestic bursar at the College of St. Hild and St. Bede, has watched a variety of his students among them Peter Warfield, Marcus Rose, Mark Bailey and Francis Clough - go on to play international rugby.

Carling ruled out

London Welsh are resigned to the fact that Will Carling, the Durham University centre, can not play for them during their demanding holiday sequence of four matches in little over a week. Carling, whose father played at prop for Cardiff, was keen to make a comeback but his debut, but is unavailable for the Boxing Day match at Llanelli and the game at Swansea the following day.

Chigwell's chance to extend sequence

The end of the autumn term brings the close of the football season for those schools which turn to other sports, Rugby to hockey, Shrewsbury to rugby, and Eton and Winchester to their own individual brands of football. A few, like Chigwell and Westminster, stay mainly with football, and are joined by a group of Lent term football schools, Harrow, Halesbury, and Rugby are among these.

Chigwell were the only team to retain an unbeaten record in now goals back three-and-a-half years. Highgate, with nine successive wins in the first half of term, were not quite able to match this, particularly after an injury to Ziad Nushush.

FOOTBALL

Year of Maradona ends only for another to begin

World football by Simon O'Hagan

If 1986 was the year Diego Maradona finally fulfilled all his dazzling potential on the international scene, 1987 could mark his greatest triumph at club level.

Maradona and Napoli will go into the New Year two points clear at the top of the Italian championship after their 2-1 win over Como on Sunday, a result which extended the club's unbeaten run this season to 13 matches and again showed that they have the ability to win their first Italian title.

There is no doubt that the impetus Maradona derived from leading Argentina to victory in the World Cup has played a huge part in Napoli's success this season. Maradona himself says that his contract with Napoli runs only until June 1988 - the jockeying for his services from that date has already begun - and that they could well represent his best chance of winning one of the European club competitions next season.

Como have been one of Italian football's unexciting success stories this season but they were quite unable to contain a rampant Napoli in the first half of their match in which two goals from Caffarelli all but settled the outcome. Como pulled a goal back six minutes from the end.

According to Italo Alodi, Napoli's general manager, this was "the most beautiful match of the championship", highlighted by superb performances from Sampdoria's young forwards, Mancini and Vialli. There were two goals for Vialli, one for Mancini and another for Briegleb, the West German international.

Juventus's recent decline - they have slipped to fourth in the table - has coincided with the rise of Inter Milan, who stay second on a comfortable 3-0 second after at home to Ascoli. Two points behind them are their neighbours, AC Milan, who won 2-1 at Roma, both goals coming from Vialli. This match was something of a tactical showdown between two generations of Swedes - Nils Liedholm, the 64-year-old manager of Milan, and his opposite number at Roma, Sven Eriksson, aged 38.

Barcelona remain a point clear of Real Madrid after a 3-1 win over Real Mallorca which included a typically opportunist goal from Gary Lineker. Real Madrid had the palladium of a victory in the Canary Islands, where an own goal by Rodriguez gave them victory over Las Palmas.

The French season started its two-month mid-season break with Olympique Marseilles still the teams to catch. In matches that smacked of storing up for winter both drew 0-0, at Laval and Toulon respectively. Marseilles lead Bordeaux on goal difference but there is a gap of four points to the third club, Monaco.

OVERSEAS RESULTS

Table of international football results including Argentina vs Uruguay, Belgium vs Netherlands, and others.

Beson to lead England

Bryan Beson, who captured the InterCity national title last month, will spearhead an England team who are favourites to retain the home international title in Cardiff in mid-January.

SQUASH RACKETS

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: UNITED STATES: National League (NFL) Atlanta 20, Detroit 10, Chicago 24, Cleveland 27, San Diego 17, Cincinnati 10, Indianapolis 10, Los Angeles Raiders 24, Kansas City 24, Pittsburgh 15, Minnesota 30, New York Jets 10, Tampa Bay 17, Washington 21, Philadelphia 14.

FOR THE RECORD

Table of sports records including American Football, Ice Hockey, Basketball, and Skiing.

SNOW REPORTS

Table of snow reports for various regions including Italy, Scotland, and the UK.

POOL FORECAST

Table of pool forecasts for various leagues including First, Second, and Third Divisions.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table of today's fixtures for various sports including Football, Handball, and Squash Rackets.

FA Trophy draw

Altrincham, holders of the FA Trophy, could face an awkward tie after the second-round draw allotted them a trip to the winners of the Merit versus Wakefield replay, which takes place on Sunday. Runcorn, last season's runners-up, also have a difficult assignment at Yeovil, while Scarborough, the GM

Carling ruled out

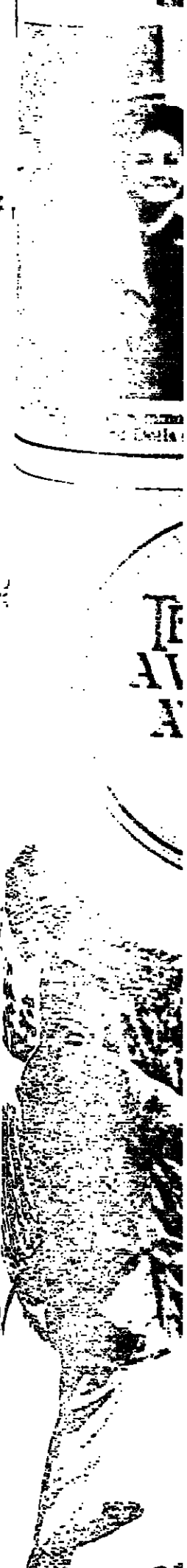
London Welsh are resigned to the fact that Will Carling, the Durham University centre, can not play for them during their demanding holiday sequence of four matches in little over a week. Carling, whose father played at prop for Cardiff, was keen to make a comeback but his debut, but is unavailable for the Boxing Day match at Llanelli and the game at Swansea the following day.

Chigwell's chance to extend sequence

The end of the autumn term brings the close of the football season for those schools which turn to other sports, Rugby to hockey, Shrewsbury to rugby, and Eton and Winchester to their own individual brands of football. A few, like Chigwell and Westminster, stay mainly with football, and are joined by a group of Lent term football schools, Harrow, Halesbury, and Rugby are among these.

POOL FORECAST

Table of pool forecasts for various leagues including First, Second, and Third Divisions.



SPORT

Honeyghan sacrifices his crown for apartheid

Lloyd Honeyghan yesterday sacrificed a third of his undisputed world welterweight title to the fight against apartheid.

Honeyghan will now concentrate on the WBC and IBF titles which he defends against the American, Johnny Bumpus, at Wembley Grand Hall on Sunday, February 22.

"They would think I wasn't concerned with what was going on in South Africa even if he denounced apartheid I don't think I could box him. I feel so strongly about it."

Honeyghan's manager, Mickey Duff, argued unsuccessfully with the WBA, claiming they did not have a No 1 contender because Volbrecht was meeting American Mark Breland in a final eliminator.

Honeyghan, who stopped Curry in Atlantic City three months ago, will earn £140,000 for fighting Bumpus, who has won 29 of his 30 contests.

Honeyghan has run into the complications which invariably face the man who holds all three titles. The WBC, who are firmly anti-apartheid, have already stated that if any of their champions defends against a South African, or the winner of an eliminator involving a South African, they will consider taking away his title.

They also have a policy of banning for life any of their champions who work in South Africa. But Honeyghan has made up his own mind for his own reasons.

As well as the WBA title, he has also given up Christmas. He leaves for America today to train in Palm Springs until 12 days before the fight, at a cost of about £25,000 out of his £180,000 purse for the Wembley contest.

"I have asked my manager to get me away as quickly as possible, so I'm off tomorrow," he said yesterday. "I've seen all the Christmas presents," he said. One of Honeyghan's claims to fame is that he has four children from three mothers.

His decision to give up the WBA crown was applauded by the London-based, anti-apartheid group SANROC. Executive chairman Sam Ramsamy said: "It is a tremendous sacrifice he is making - but one which will pay dividends."

"We shall apply pressure with boxing to try to ensure that he is eventually restored to his rightful place as WBA champion."

CRICKET

Australia turn to McDermott again

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Melbourne

In an effort to sharpen their attack, Australia have brought Craig McDermott into their 12 for the fourth Test match starting here on Boxing Day.

McDermott's nine wickets have cost him 75 apiece and come at a rate of one every 23 overs. He never had much natural rhythm, relying on his day he was decidedly fast.

The chances are it will be Matthews or Ritchie, both of whom would be unlucky, Matthews after making 73 not out at Adelaide, and Ritchie because his scores in the series have been 41, 45, 33, 24 not out, 36 and 40 not out.

In the eight Test matches he has played since taking 30 wickets at 30.03 against England in England in 1983,

McDermott's nine wickets have cost him 75 apiece and come at a rate of one every 23 overs. He never had much natural rhythm, relying on his day he was decidedly fast.

He took six for 125 in Queensland's defeat of Gattling's side at the start of the present tour, and he will have encouraging memories of cricket on the Melbourne Cricket Ground where, in his first Test match, against West Indies two years ago, he took six wickets, including Vivian Richards's for nought. From Reid, Hughes and McDermott, England's batsmen will expect to have more to contend with than in the earlier Tests, if it is a typical Melbourne pitch.

SQUAD: G. B. Marsh, D. C. Boon, D. M. Jones, A. R. Border (captain), G. M. Fitzchell, S. B. Waugh, G. B. Matthews, P. F. Sheehan, J. Ziehe, C. J. McDermott, B. A. Reid, M. G. Hughes.

Tour assessment, page 25

GOLF

Charles builds fortune and a home from home

From John Ballantine, Montego Bay

Bob Charles, the New Zealand left-hander, who won the Open Championship at Royal Lytham in 1963, is building and furnishing a home on Professional Golfers' Association property in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Not that Charles is leaving his beloved Christchurch, where he has a farm. But it is more comfortable for a fellow who has now \$511,160 in a career in United States senior golf that began only in March, when he turned 50, to have a place he can call home over here, not far from Jack Nicklaus nor, for that matter, Bernhard and Vikki Langer.

"I owe it all to Amy," Charles said graciously afterwards and, indeed, it was

Alcott who, after the five other players in the three-team play-off had failed with birdie puts at the first extra hole, the 15th, who firmly held a 12-foot "Yippee!" she screamed, achieving the additional and not inconsiderable feat of causing a smile to cross Charles's usually poker face.

The losing pairs in the play-off were Billy Casper, aged 55, and Australia's Jan Stephenson, who turned 35 yesterday. They fought their way back into a tie, after "blowing" a two-stroke lead at the turn, with the lesser-known Jim Ferree and Ayako Okamoto, aged 35, of Japan.

LEADING SCORES: 193: B Charles (NZ) and A Alcott, 64, 65, 64 (won play-off and \$300,000); B Casper and J Stephenson (Aus), 65, 62, 66; J Ferree and A Okamoto (Japan), 65, 63, 66 (\$250,000 each); 194: A Palmer and G Johnson, 64, 64, 65 (\$100,000 each); 195: B Crumpton (Aus) and P Bradley, 63, 65, 67 (\$22,000).

Fraser's tennis optimism

Melbourne (AP) - Sweden may be better on paper, but Neale Fraser, Australia's Davis Cup captain, said his country should be favoured when the two countries meet in the final of the tournament, which begins on Boxing Day. Fraser also claims that his top player, Pat Cash, is a better grass court



That's my boy: David Pleat, Tottenham's manager, eyes his new signing, Steve Hodge, with a satisfied smile

Foley faces charge of disrepute Villa intend keeping a tight hold on purse strings

By Chris Moore

Theo Foley, the assistant manager of Arsenal, has been charged by the Football Association of bringing the game into disrepute. The accusation follows an incident during Arsenal's 1-1 draw at Norwich on December 13 when Foley is alleged to have made remarks to a linesman.

The Irishman, who was formerly the manager of Charlton and Millwall, could face a large fine if found guilty of a breach of the FA rules covering disrepute and insulting or improper behaviour.

Foley now has 14 days to inform the FA whether he wants a personal hearing. Punishment for the charges are unlimited.

Aberdeen deny interest in Nicholas move

By Hugh Taylor

The directors of at least one English club can breathe a sigh of relief today in the knowledge that their leading player is safe from the hands of the marauding Scots.

The reports that Aberdeen wanted to transfer Luton Town's Welsh international, Peter Nicholas, to Pittodrie has been denied by Ian Porterfield, the manager there.

"All this talk of Scottish clubs luring top English players north is becoming a bit of a joke," said Porterfield. "I have no intention of signing any new players at the moment. When I arrived here from England I promised I would give all the players a fair crack of the whip. It is true that, like all clubs, we are looking at players for you have always to look at the future. But we are not moving for Nicholas or anyone else at the moment."

Meanwhile, Celtic supporters are growing adamant that it is time the league leaders, who displayed defensive anxiety again on Saturday when they dropped a point to Aberdeen, did something to bolster their rearguard.

It would sound more credible if another move were to be made for the Chelsea centre half, Joe McLaughlin, or, for that matter, even Nicholas, whose experience would be of immense value at Parkhead.

Aston Villa will not be embarking on a Christmas spending spree following the £650,000 cash injection received from the sale of Steve Hodge to Tottenham Hotspur.

Although still anchored in the bottom three of the first division, Doug Ellis, Aston Villa's chairman, made it clear last night he still intends retaining a tight hold on the purse strings.

"In the last 15 months we have laid out £2.6 million on new players and have recouped only £1.4 million. That has to be taken into consideration," Ellis said.

"The manager has known since he came here that he needed to redress the balance because, frankly, we still have too many players on our books."

But McNeill will be given part of the Hodge transfer fee to spend, although it is unlikely to be much more than £300,000. "Whatever happens I won't be rushing into anything before Christmas," he

said. "I did make one inquiry last weekend when I knew the Hodge deal was on the cards. But nothing materialized."

A forward with a proven goal-scoring record is top of his wanted list although he conceded: "They don't come cheaply and it may even mean I will have to sell again first."

McNeill is looking to Villa's £350,000 summer signing Neale Cooper, who has yet to kick a ball in the first team, to eventually take over as Hodge's replacement in midfield.

After suffering a succession of injury setbacks, Cooper has emerged unscathed after three games and is near to making a belated League debut. Even so, McNeill is still erring on the side of caution a little longer. "I cannot emphasize the value of caution at this stage," he said. "I will not play him until he is absolutely right and that is not likely to be until after Christmas."

Meanwhile, Birmingham City's chairman Ken Wheldon

insisted last night that the club's 17-goal top scorer, Wayne Clarke, is not for sale. Everton's manager Howard Kendall has watched Clarke twice recently and is understood to be preparing a £400,000 bid for the 25 year old forward, who joined the Birmingham for £80,000 three years ago from Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Kendall has Clarke earmarked as a possible replacement for the unsettled Paul Wilkinson.

But, even though while Birmingham are still deep in debt and struggling to meet their weekly wage bill on average gates of around 8,000, Wheldon was adamant last night that the club's prize asset was not for sale. "I want to make that absolutely clear, no matter how tempting an offer Everton may come up with."

Due to an agreement they struck with Wolves when they signed Clarke, Birmingham would only receive half of any profit

Wednesday hungry for title

By Martin Seabry

With the Football League entering its most gruelling phase in which most clubs face four games in an eight-day period over the holiday, any side who can stand the pace will emerge with a first-class chance of honours.

While most critics favour the perennial challenge of Liverpool, the re-emergence of Arsenal, the precocious talents of Nottingham Forest, or the accomplished Everton team, few have given serious consideration to the claims of Sheffield Wednesday who have now climbed to fifth place in the first division.

Yet Howard Wilkinson's team have only been beaten four times and only Arsenal are able to improve on that. More importantly, Wednesday have built up a squad that knows the meaning of hard work and mastery of the simple things in football, two characteristics that have been the backbone of every winning side.

Wilkinson, a drolly humorous man, has also constructed a club that is not ashamed to embrace the old-fashioned

virtues of honesty and responsibility, it is the height of folly to suggest to him that more cynical attitudes should prevail.

Any Wednesday player who should over-indulge during the festive season may not remain one far into the New Year. "Given the importance of this span of games, it would, in my view, be a criminal act if any player failed to live up to his responsibilities despite all the distractions. The period will show up unexpected results as fatigue, injury, illness, and lack of preparation play more significant parts than normal."

"However, there can be no complaints about the arduous programme, because, within the game, we all know that for big prizes you have to pay big prices."

Manchester City at Maine Road is followed by Liverpool at home on Saturday, a visit from Norwich City on New Year's Day, and a trip to Leicester, the most important of these clearly the match with the champions.

"We set ourselves targets, and so far we have achieved them at this stage," said Wilkinson after the 2-0 victory over Newcastle ended the Tynesiders' run of seven matches without defeat. We know what lies ahead."

His side has already overcome the illness of Marwood, a fleet winger whose crosses on the run have opened the way for the tall and elegant Chapman to score 13 times already. Bradshaw, the 18-year-old who scored his first home goal in that win, now has a back strain and the leading forward two stitches in his mouth. But in reserve are two talented teenagers in Shutt and Hirst, since Wednesday have stronger foundations than last year when they ended fifth.

I find the speed, commitment, and drive of Sterland and Shelton two compelling reasons why Wilkinson's dream can come true, while the rest of the team has a cohesion and pace that can, at times, be breathtaking. While Owls may be renowned for sagacity, it is well to remember they are carnivores.

Spectre of Botham haunts the ghost of Christmas books

At Sixes and Sevens Chapter Seven: Afterwards

The autobiography of Pete Swarbrick, cricketer (Brilliant title, Ed.)

Acknowledgements: My mum, an influential school-teacher, the club coach, the woman who makes the lunch at Leamshire County Cricket Club. Also to Fred Smith, an obscure journalist. He actually wrote this book, as a matter of fact.

Chapter One: Great Days

I buckled my pads on securely. "Good luck, mate," said "Both" - good old Ian Botham, that is. "England is waiting for you to do your bit," he quipped. At that great moment I could not help looking back to the days when I was a snotty little schoolkid. Who would have thought that a very ordinary boy from Streatham, turning up for cricket practice in his dead dad's old jockstrap and patched flannels would one day play for his country? (Any more about Botham? Ed.)

Chapter Two: In The Beginning

We had it hard as kids. Most of the kids in our suburb only had one car! Kids today don't know how lucky they are. But me, I didn't have a care in the world in those days. All I wanted was a bat in my hand and I was happy as a sandboy. My mother was a wonderful support to me. So was my dead dad, come to think of it.

Chapter Three: Early Days

"Make no mistake," my schoolteacher said. "One day this lad will play for England." But he was wrong. Poxy old Jenkins was turned down by a minor county and it was me, not him, that joined the big time and got picked for Leamshire Colts.

Chapter Four: Learning The Trade

I shall never forget the day I first walked out on to the sacred turf of Leamshire cricket ground. I was completely overawed but somehow I knew I was going to make it. But I was a bit of a harum-scarum in those days. Many a time I got drunk and threw up behind the sight-screen.

(Did he do this with Botham? Ed.) (No, FS)

Chapter Five: I Make It

I was lucky enough to score several centuries in my first season with Leamshire. Soon people were saying: "Swarbrick for England!" For a young lad of 20, the sky was the limit. (v well put, this, Ed.)

Chapter Six: England!

I got picked for England. It was a great honour. It was the greatest moment of my life. We won the match, too. Good old "Both" took 10 wickets, scored 150 runs and took five catches. It was a marvellous team effort and we all did our bit.

Chapter Seven: Afterwards

I never played for England again after making a pair in my first Test. But I'm not bitter. I love the life of a county cricketer. I mean, if they want to pick a load of half-wits who can't tell a half-volley from a half-nelson (brilliant phrase, Ed.) (Thank you, FS) then that's their business, isn't it? It's a grand life as a county pro and if I hang on for another 15 years I'll make a killing with my benefit. Meanwhile, I can always make a quick quid as a celebrated author.

Chapter Eight: Now What?

(How do we fill up the rest of the book? FS) (Ask him what he thinks of famous cricketers. Like Botham, Ed.) David Gower: Good player but a bit laid back. Mike Gatting: Good player but a bit fat. Took him a long time to establish himself, didn't it? Bob Willis: Tall man. Talks slowly.

Malcolm Marshall: There is not an ounce of malice in the man. A delightful person, a genius, a charmer, a gentleman. No one in cricket has a bad word for him. He is one of the old school. An absolute sweetie. Geoff Boycott: A perfectionist. Comes from Yorkshire.

Ian Botham: The game needs characters like "Both". I don't begrudge him a penny of his vast fortune. Bastard. (Brilliant, illuminating chapter, Ed.)

Chapter Nine: Completely Stuck

Well, that's about all I can think of, really. (Ask him for some humorous stories about Botham, Ed.) (He's never met Botham. I made up the bit in the first chapter, FS) (Well, ask him his views on controversial issues, like Botham, Ed.)

Er, no one likes short pitch bowling but it's part of the game. The one-day game has improved the fielding beyond all recognition. Is that all right?

Chapter Ten: The Summing Up

It's a great game. People who write off Pete Swarbrick are making a big mistake. Where would the game be without great characters like, well, me? Can I have the second half of my advance now, please?

(Well done, marvellous stuff, Ed.) (Are you really going to charge £9.95 for this? FS) (Course! People will buy anything if it's about cricket. By the way, I've got a new idea for the title. How about: At Sixes and Sevens: Cricket, Botham and Me, by Pete Swarbrick? Ed.) (Ace, FS).

Simon Barnes

Eastwood puts his guard up again

By George Ace

One has to admire B J Eastwood's tenacity. The man who steered Barry McGuigan to the WBA version of the featherweight championship of the world is contemplating a January boxing promotion in Belfast at either the King's Hall or the Ulster Hall.

Neither venture would be a viable proposition without very substantial sponsorship and television coverage, and the reason is simple: without the McGuigan magic professional boxing in Belfast or in Ireland, for that matter, is flat beer.

Eastwood has the British flyweight champion, Dave McAuley, under his wing and he also controls to a large extent the European middleweight champion, Herol Graham. Individually or together the pair would not come anywhere near to filling the King's Hall and the expense involved in putting a double top featuring the two champions at the 1,500 capacity Ulster Hall almost certainly makes it a non-starter.

Ulster Hall shows that did not feature McGuigan always finished in the red and in most cases the loss incurred was in and around the £10,000 mark. But those losses could be offset against a McGuigan show in the King's Hall or in Dublin and everyone was happy.

Last month's Ulster Hall promotion with the British middleweight title bout topping the bill was the first in the city for several months and a first since the Eastwood-McGuigan split turned from rumour to fact. It was not, and was never expected to be, a financial success. Eastwood has never been afraid to gamble on his judgement and has rarely been proved wrong, but no one should ever mistake him for a philanthropist.

He knows better than anyone that there is not an Irish boxer capable of filling either of the two venues like McGuigan did, even on the way up. Hugh Russell, outright winner of a Lonsdale Belt, and by far a more popular fighter than any of the current crop of young hopefuls could not do it even when he was champion. And Graham's lack-luster Belfast debut some 12 months ago against a nondescript American has not been forgotten, nor will it for a long time.

Unfortunately the Monagans, Gilroy, Caldwell, and McGuigans are exceptions rather than the rule and there is no doubt that McGuigan has sort of soured those who could be classified as fringe boxing supporters, who feel they have been let down. The fanatics will still attend irrespective of the bill, but they do not appear to be as thick on the ground these days and that is why one cannot be optimistic about the future.

Eastwood will argue his corner vehemently and will always be prepared to put his money where his mouth is but it may be a long long time before the rafters of the King's Hall reverberate to the roars that marked the entrance of the Clones Cyclone and accompanied his every move while the action lasted. McGuigan was overawed with instant appeal; he was an electrifying fighter. More is the pity he did not stick to what he did best and more is the pity that those who have had his ear over the last two years or so could not see the road they were travelling on was fraught with danger.

Whatever the future may hold for McGuigan it will never be what it could have been. And whatever the future holds for boxing in Belfast it will never be the same as it was.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Pressure to join

The four governing bodies of athletics in Scotland are coming under increasing pressure from the Scottish Sports Council to amalgamate. Finance is a major reason for the Council's interest as it currently grant-aids all four and a single body would be much more efficient.

The Council has written to each of them, the Scottish AAA and Scottish Women's AAA. Scottish Cross Country Union and Scottish Women's Cross Country Union, suggesting a meeting and offering to appoint a neutral chairman.

Dicks's new job

Jane Dicks, a former Northamptonshire county champion, takes over as secretary of the English Ladies Golf Association on January 12. Miss Dicks, aged 38, will spend the first three months working in tandem with the outgoing secretary, Gillian Hickson.

Tour manager

Les Bettinson, the 51-year-old Salford director, has been named manager for the Great Britain Rugby League tour to Australia and New Zealand in 1987.

Douglas's bid

Desmond Douglas, the English and Commonwealth table tennis champion, will bid for a record 10th men's singles title in the Triumph Adler English National Championships at Crawley on January 23-24.

Injury time

Richard Donovan, the South Wales Police and Welsh international centre who was injured in Saturday's Schweppes Cup match against Pencoed, is likely to be out for the rest of the season. Donovan, aged 23, is still in hospital with a suspected depressed cheek fracture.

Missing Case

Jimmy Case, the Southampton captain, will miss the FA Cup third round tie against Everton at Goodison Park on January 10, due to his two match suspension. Case, the former Liverpool and Brighton player, who has reached 21 disciplinary points, will also miss the first division game against Manchester United a week earlier.

Fast moves

Southampton have moved fast to find a temporary replacement for the England goalkeeper, Peter Shilton, who broke his nose in a League match against Nottingham Forest, on Saturday. They have signed Manchester City second team goalkeeper, Eric Nixon, on a month's loan.

Paying up

Tokyo (AFP) - A Japanese magazine publisher was yesterday ordered by a district court here to pay 1.8 million yen (£7,923) damages to boxing judges Stanley Christodoulou, of South Africa and Eva Shain, of the United States, for an article accusing them of taking bribes in connection with the 1982 WBA world title fight between then junior flyweight champion, Katsuo Tokashiki, of Japan, and Lupe Madera, of Mexico.

Carr is told to make a decision

Brian Clough, the Nottingham Forest manager, who is already planning for next season, has told Franz Carr, his England under-21 winger, that he must soon shortly whether he intends to sign a new contract. Carr, aged 20, whose present contract ends in June, has been watched by several top clubs recently.

Since his move to Forest two and a half years ago, he has been one of their outstanding players. Under the transfer agreement with Blackburn Rovers, the fee is being paid in stages, based on Carr's number of appearances in the first team.

Blackburn have already received £100,000 and if Carr plays for England's senior team Forest have to pay them another £100,000. Clough said: "I want the player to make up his mind and he has to do it very shortly."

Liverpool expect to have their Danish international, Jan Molby, back for the Boxing Day match with Manchester United at Anfield which looks like being a sell out. Molby has returned to full training after a three-game absence with a hamstring strain.